Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Russia: Yeltsin's Visit to Krasnodar Kray Detailed

MM1704101796 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Apr 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Vladimir Istomin: "Boris Yeltsin Supported the Residents of the Kuban"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Krasnodar Kray — The Russian Federation president is continuing his working tour of Krasnodar Kray.

The Kuban has always lived well. Provided, naturally, that you compare its life and achievements not with its U.S. twin — the state of Iowa — but with other parts of Russia. It has not only itself lived but has also given away a great deal. Third place for production of agricultural products, tenth place among the industrial giants — such is the kray's potential. Its health-giving potential is also incomparable.

Krasnodar Kray has also recently joined the ranks of the most important regions in the foreign economic and foreign policy spheres. Not to mention the Kuban residents' position in the upcoming Russian presidential election.

So the president's increased attention to this unique region is natural. In recent years alone Boris Yeltsin has issued three edicts associated with resolving Krasnodar Kray's problems. Now the Kuban is again at the center of the president's attention. The single day of Boris Nikolayevich's stay on Kuban soil was packed full. Right after a wreath laying at the Eternal Flame in Ploshchad Pamyati Geroyev [Square Commemorating Heroes] there was a meeting with veterans. After all, over 1.5 million pensioners live on the kray's territory. It was these, together with the rural folk (these make up 46 percent of the kray's population of almost 6 million), who created the Kuban's fame as the "red belt."

So maybe it was not worth the president's while wasting time on regions where it would seem to be difficult to find support? Oh, but it was!

The forceful decisions to eliminate the delays over paying pensions and wages and to restore peace in Chechnya as well as other innovative steps have elicited a response in the hearts of Krasnodar Kray's inhabitants. The president's rating in Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays has practically trebled. This was confirmed by very amicable meetings with veterans.

The president also visited the Marshal Zhukov residential military camp, erected recently with German money on the outskirts of the city of Krasnodar. Incidentally, 1.6 million square meters of housing was built in Krasnodar Kray last year — which, in terms of the area per resident, is even somewhat more than in Moscow. At the same time account must be taken of the fact that new houses are rising up not only around cities but also in villages. The Kuban's remote rural areas have probably never experienced such a building boom. This confirms the correctness of the president's line of promoting in every possible way the development of individual construction by granting people the necessary credits on preferential terms.

Boris Nikolayevich's meeting with numerous representatives of the All-Kuban Cossack Host was particularly warm. To the traditional shouts of "Lyubo" the president there and then signed three edicts at the Cossacks' request, including one on benefits for Cossacks who have pledged to perform service.

On the way to the village of Staromyshastovskaya, founded by Zaporozhye Cossacks in 1823, the president went right up to machine operators in a field. In the village itself the important guest was greeted with bread and salt by a Cossack man and woman, leaders of the "Rossiya" agrofirm. Naturally the president spent a long time right there, chatting in some detail with Kuban residents. Many problems of the agrarian sector were discussed. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin visited a family of villagers, where he was naturally received most cordially by his hospitable hosts.

Yeltsin's final meeting with the public took place at midday in the Kray Drama Theater. The head of state reported that he intends to sign two edicts — on state support for Krasnodar Kray's socioeconomic development through the year 2000 and on state support for Russia's agro-industrial complex.

Wherever Boris Nikolayevich went on this day and whoever he spoke with, you could always feel that it was not just one of numerous candidates for high office who had come to the Kuban but the current president, who works and fulfills his duty to the people. He does not just promise but is prepared to make every official fulfill his decisions.

Russia: Yeltsin Said 'Determined' To Win Second Term

LD1604125096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1216 GMT 16 Apr 96

[By Viktor Zhilyakov and Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNODAR April 16 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin said on Tuesday he was determined to win the second term of office at June 16 presidential election as there was no worthy successor to continue the course of reforms.

"To put it bluntly, there is no worthy successor", Yeltsin told the public of the southern Krasnodar region.

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"The president must be convinced in the candidates for presidency. Besides, I have to be sure that this or another candidate for the presidential post will have enough patience and constraint to maintain the fragile balance in the top bodies of power because calm in Russia depends on him", Yeltsin said.

Besides, he added, the president should be convinced that a candidate will not cede to "fatal temptations" of top authority if elected and that he will have enough willpower and skills to make correct decisions in a critical situation.

Yeltsin stressed that he was running for the second term not because he was willing to "bear the brunt of authority", but because he was "concerned for the country" and not for himself.

"We often speak about young Russian statehood, about young democracy and we are as if diminishing the exactingness to the state, to ourselves and to each other. On June 16 the time of eternal youth will end", he said.

Russia: Yeltsin Reassures Veterans, Hints at Chechnya's Status

LD1604122896 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Apr 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The report on today's events in President Yeltsin's visit to Krasnodar territory is now ready at last, and here it is: [video shows motorcade halting and elderly people lined up to greet Yeltsin]

[Correspondent S. Shcherbal] Boris Yeltsin began his day in Krasnodar today with a visit to the memorial on the Square of Fallen Heroes. After paying homage to the memory of the servicemen killed during the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War, and after laying flowers beside the Eternal Flame, the president met with war veterans. [video shows wreath-laying ceremony; Yeltsin receiving a red folder and then talking to a group of elderly people]

A conversation took place at this point concerning the problems that elderly people have to face in our difficult times. There were questions, and there were requests. Many of them arose, according to Boris Yeltsin, because the Law on Veterans is not yet operating fully:

[begin Yeltsin recording] The law that incorporates financial matters should, according to the constitution, be first submitted to the government for its decision, but they did not submit it for the government's decision. Now, let us say, in order to pay out the money in accordance with the Law on Veterans, we should have to commit the whole of Russia's budget to that end. We cannot do that. We are now thinking about how to solve the problem. [end recording; video shows Yeltsin bidding farewell to the veterans and moving away; motorcade departing]

One of the requests was granted immediately: Boris Yeltsin promised to help the Kuban veterans with housing. He allocated money from the contingency fund for building a 100-apartment block. A similar block will be built with funds from the Territory's budget.

Incidentally, the ghost of the approaching elections could be sensed at the meeting in full force. The supporters of Zyuganov and Anpilov set up demonstrators throughout the city to carry placards urging Boris Yeltsin to give up power. [video shows police lining route; placard in background reads: Yeltsin — destroyer of the Fatherland!; then Yeltsin is seen emerging from his limousine, military officer reports to him]

The president made his next stop at the Zhukov military township, which was built by a Turkish firm for servicemen relocated from Central Europe. While talking to officers and their families, Boris Yeltsin again broached the Chechen problem. [video shows Yeltsin standing in the middle of a crowd]

[begin Yeltsin recording] Russia was united and indivisible, and it will remain united and indivisible, and we shall not give anyone a single piece of land. That must be firmly borne in mind. It is useless not to do so. So, if the mediators get to work on him [Dudayev] to drop that condition, all other matters are less important and can be settled. Even as regards the status of Chechnya, we might agree to some greater status for Chechnya, a more independent one, let us say, but within Russia. [end recording]

Russia: Veterans Petition Yeltsin Not To Run in Elections

LD1604163396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Video report by Ilya Kanavin, NTV North Caucasus bureau, Krasnodar Territory correspondent; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Russian president's working visit to the territory began with a meeting with war veterans at the eternal flame. In the first moments there was an episode which had clearly not been envisaged in the program of the visit. The veterans handed Boris Yeltsin a petition to withdraw his candidacy for the post of head of state. However, this could not shake Yeltsin's determination to stand for election for a second term. [passage omitted: correspondent reports Yeltsin talked about pensions]

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[Kanavin, over video of people waving red flag, complete with hammer and sickle, and holding up banners bearing indecipherable slogans about war in Chechnya, dignity of Russians behind phalanx of militiamen] Just a few dozen meters from the president, a crowd of people had gathered with anti-presidential slogans in their hands. In the face of these people in an hostile mood, Boris Nikolayevich once again confirmed his intention to finish the reforms in Russia, in person. [passage omitted: visit to farm; Yeltsin signed decree supporting agriculture]

Russia: Filatov Says Compromise Sought With Yeltsin Election Rivals

LD1604192396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YAROSLAVL, April 16 (Interfax) — To ensure Boris Yeltsin's re-election as Russian president, work is underway on talks with all his election rivals, the chairman of the coordinating committee of the Nationwide Movement in Support of Yeltsin, Sergey Filatov, told regional leaders in Yaroslavl Tuesday.

"There are hopes that we may agree with [eye-surgeon] Svyatoslav Fedorov and [Duma deputy] Aleksandr Lebed," Filatov said. At the same time, he was pessimistic about similar consultations with ex-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"It looks like Mikhail Sergeevich [Gorbachev] is set to take some votes from Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] rather than from the Communists," he said. "At the same time, they are of more danger to him, because they want to square accounts with him as soon as they come to power."

At a press conference later this afternoon, Filatov hoped a compromise would be reached with Yabloko party leader and presidential hopeful Grigoriy Yavlinskiy.

"The most difficult thing is to understand what Yavlinskiy himself wants," Filatov said. "If he wants to be president, there is nothing to talk about, but if he wants to be prime minister, we may think about it.

"He does not want to be the first deputy prime minister," Filatov said. "Maybe, we should think of a body where he would be more needed.

"Boris Nikolayevich has not yet joined the work with Yavlinskiy," Filatov said. "He will, but some time later, at least there are such plans."

The democratic movement is no longer split over whether to support Yeltsin or not, Filatov said. He said he was "nearly convinced" that Yegor Gaydar's Democratic Party of Russia and the Republican Party of Russia would finally support Yeltsin's re-election.

Russia: Army Brass Mounting Pro-Yeltsin Campaign

MM1704111896 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Article by Boris Golyshev under the "Army Prepares for Elections" rubric: "Vote for the President — Fall In!..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was recently reported on television that the defense minister has decided not to allow any "outsiders" into troop units in the period remaining before the elections.

Literally that same day a military leader showed me a curious document. "Just take a look," he said angrily, "and see how hypocritical the actions of the Defense Ministry leadership are. On the one hand they pretend for public consumption that the Army is outside politics, but in reality they have mounted a campaign in support of the current president, who has ruined the Army."

Indeed, it is a serious document and is ratified by the defense minister. It begins with a gloomy report from Army General M. Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, to Defense Minister P. Grachev: "I report that work among the troops and in the fleets, and also the 28-29 March assembly of leaders of educational organs and the military mass media **show serious shortcomings** in preparations for the presidential elections."

After an introduction like that Pavel Grachev should obviously have shuddered and really laid into the chief of the General Staff and the lawyers who initialed this document. Just how long have the Armed Forces been engaged in "preparations for the presidential elections" (albeit with "serious shortcomings")?! Are we living in Chile or some other South American country ruled by a "gorilla" dictator? At least they wrote about the Army's preparations for the elections (although even this is ambiguous from the legal viewpoint), otherwise it would have been virtually an open call to arms!

The chief of the General Staff regrets that "there is no clear program for participation by the leading personnel of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and military command and control organs at all levels **in resolving organizational, technical, information, and propaganda tasks** during the election campaign." Even more tragically, in his view, "certain leaders of main and central directorates, armed services and combat arms, and districts and fleets are seeking to adopt a **neutral position** and are not conducting specific organizational

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and explanatory work among the troops under their command."

That kind of behavior on the part of the generals simply will not do! How can this be, who permitted such major military leaders to adopt a "neutral position"? That way people may slide into the opposition camp!

Aargh! Mr. M. Kolesnikov, you are not going to get a pat on the head for this. My advice to you is this: Line up all these generals, admirals, and colonels who are still maintaining a "neutral position" and give the order: "Attention, align with the portrait of President B. Yeltsin!" If anyone does not turn their head, immediately retire them or send them off to Chechnya.

Just joking. In reality Army General M. Kolesnikov submitted and Defense Minister P. Grachev approved a very serious program to "prepare for the presidential elections."

It envisages hearing reports on this problem from "deputy defense ministers, commanders in chief, commanders of armed services, and chiefs of main and central directorates regarding the organization of the election campaign and the participation of subordinate troops of military educational establishments, military commissariats, enterprises, and institutions in the upcoming elections."

Furthermore, before 15 April the commanders in chief of armed services, the commanders of combat arms, and so forth must "**adopt a decision** on the preparation and participation of subordinate troops (forces) in the upcoming elections." You get the impression that preparations are under way if not for a strategic operation, then at least for a front operation. But essentially under the law it is electoral commissions alone that are basically supposed to do this.

The defense minister approved a timetable for work by deputy defense ministers, commanders in chief of armed services, and commanders of combat arms in districts, fleets, and regions for the period through 16 June.

All the higher commanders plus the united "efforts of all the military mass media" are being thrown into preparing for the presidential elections. Such a thing has never happened before in the history of the Soviet and Russian Armies. Therefore the president can have no firm hope of Army support if all the generals are rushing into the front line, into the first trench.

Deputy Defense Minister Army General V. Toporov has been entrusted with the most thankless task — "elaborating a system of measures to remove tension in troop collectives and inform troops about the work being carried out on financial supply and other acute problems." Not even deadlines for implementation are given. And rightly so, since if there is no money, it is hard to create a "system of measures." I fear that eventually Army General V. Toporov will be made a "scapegoat" for failing to remove "tension" among the troops.

In order to avoid burdening a single deputy defense minister with all the Army's problems, a working group has been set up. It is headed by Colonel General A. Bogdanov, deputy chief of the General Staff. This group is supposed to "generalize" and study in a timely fashion questions received from troops (forces) regarding the removal of tension in troop collectives and to resolve the most acute problems. It is to report weekly to the Russian Federation Defense Ministry leadership on sentiments among servicemen, civilian personnel, and members of their families during the election campaign and proposals on stabilizing the situation in troop and labor collectives.

The lot of this "working group" is also unenviable. As is well known the mood among troops and in the Navy is lousy (I am afraid that another, more appropriate word would simply not be printed). Incidentally, servicemen have not received the main "stabilizer" of the situation, namely money, for two or three months.

But money is not the only point. Russian and Soviet officers have never attached paramount importance to money, still less weighed in monetary terms their attitude toward fulfilling their military duty to the motherland.

Having said that, over the years of "perestrovka" and "reform" considerable numbers of servicemen have quite clearly begun to realize why a once invincible legendary army has been totally wrecked.

Soldiers and officers can see the reasons for the bloody war in Chechnya and are aware that the Army is being turned into a police force directed against its own people.

The compilers of the document approved by the defense ministry either have not looked at the federal law "On Elections of the Russian Federation President" or believe that the law does not apply to them. Otherwise they would not have written the following: "Collaboration with the Council for Elections of the Russian Federation President must be organized within the framework of the electoral law. A system and plan for work with representatives and action groups in support of the Russian Federation president at local level must be defined." The question arises: Why should all servicemen vote for the current president, what has he done for the Armed Forces?

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The aforementioned law states, among other things: "The following are prohibited from carrying out election campaigning and disseminating any election materials:

"— federal organs of power...;

"— troop units, military institutions and organizations...."

There is food for thought here for the prosecutor's office, if it is watching over the law.

Russia: Zyuganov Meets With Voters in Lipetsk

MM1604152696 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Baklanov: "Keenly Awaited Meetings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lipetsk Tractor Plant's Palace of Culture was filled to overflowing during the meeting of Russian presidential candidate G. Zyuganov with voters. There were even people standing in the street to hear how the communist leader reckons he will rescue the economy from ruin and improve life if only a little bit if he is elected. But here, at the tractor plant, the economy is hardly showing any signs of life and the workers have not received their wages for months.

G. Zyuganov stated that there are now 20 million unemployed and 40 million beggars in the country, the best enterprises are being sold off for a song, and Russia is on the verge of ruin. The only possible way to halt its plunder and begin to rebuild that which has been destroyed is by pooling the efforts of all those to whom the fatherland's interests are precious.

Prior to his arrival in Lipetsk, the presidential candidate had already had meetings in Voronezh and Yelets. Everywhere he attracted audiences of many thousands. People expressed their support for the program of the left-wing forces' candidate. An unscheduled stop was made at the village of Khlevnoye, Lipetsk Oblast. The village's inhabitants asked G. Zyuganov to answer their questions.

"Derzhava" Association Leader A. Rutskoy and Agrarian Union Chairman V. Starodubtsev appeared together with G. Zyuganov before voters at a citywide rally in Lipetsk.

Russia: Zyuganov, Others Comment on Course of CPRF Campaign

MM1604154896 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Valentina Nikiforova: "Opposition Will Not Tell Lies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What distinguishes the press conferences of the opposition leaders? Above all, their serious sense of responsibility for every word. If only because the "democrats" do not let G. Zyuganov, for example, get away with even the slightest inaccuracy — unlike the Kremlin presidential candidate. It is for this reason that the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leader's press conferences attract a huge number of journalists: There are not too many places in Russia today where one can learn the truth. Such was the case last Friday [12 April], when G. Zyuganov, together with V. Ilyukhin, S. Savitskaya, and V. Semago, assessed the results of their tour of the Chernozem and the situation in the country and the party.

"Our group, which included A. Rutskoy, S. Savitskaya, V. Starodubtsev, and T. Petrova — we really enjoyed her songs! — went there in order to find out how people really feel. What we saw in the Chernozem was by no means what they showed B. Yeltsin in Belgorod Oblast the day before," G. Zyuganov said in his introductory remarks. "We saw anxiety in the peasants' eyes: How can they carry out the sowing campaign when they have no seed, fuel, or spare parts...? At a rally of 5,000 people at a very large aviation enterprise we heard anxiety over the disastrous situation of the employees, over the fact that there is no demand for their output, which is necessary for the country's security.... And it is entirely understandable that people supported the platform of the presidential candidate from the people's patriotic forces."

[Question] Obviously you were traveling in the "Red zone" — everyone knows and supports you there. But why don't you visit academic centers? The intelligentsia there does not entirely agree with the Communists.

"Voronezh too is not some town in the sticks: It has 12 higher educational establishments and the most modern enterprises," G. Zyuganov noted. "And we have opponents there. The head of the oblast administration is no slouch; he submitted an unconstitutional proposal to the Federation Council to extend B. Yeltsin's powers for another two years...."

"I visited the Institute of Communications," S. Savitskaya continued. "Five years ago its employees almost all supported Yeltsin. But this time, in a packed hall, I

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did not hear a single question aimed against the people's patriotic forces. People have understood everything. Life has forced them to do so. When the most intelligent people earn just 300,000, you quickly make up your mind."

"Nowadays the scientific, technical, and creative intelligentsia understand us and support us more actively than anyone else," V. Ilyukhin — who recently visited Saratova, Volgograd, and Penze — added. "I have just come from a congress of investors. This congress adopted a decision to support Zyuganov's candidacy for the presidency: People have no one else on whom to pin hopes for justice."

[Question] Do you have image makers, and what style do they recommend that you adopt before the electorate? This question is from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA! Your rival is displaying humanity, while you are displaying ever increasing fundamentalism....

[Zyuganov] Humanity should not be displayed, it should be acted on (journalists applauded) [Nikiforova note]. Go down into the subway and at the first crossing you will meet at list 10 old women and children begging for alms. It is impossible to look at this without pain and shuddering. I appeal to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA yet again: Publish our platform, in accordance with the Law on Presidential Elections. People want to know the candidate's views, approaches, and program. So far the newspaper has favored us only with criticism of a program that it has not published! Well, isn't it strange, Kiva tears our platform to pieces, yet the newspaper's readers have not the slightest inkling of this platform! [Zyuganov ends]

"Gennadiy Andreyevich has touched on a telling aspect of the opposition to our candidate's election campaign," V. Ilyukhin took up the theme. "But he has not told the whole story. I can add an extremely unpleasant piece of information. Right now certain circles and certain services have drawn up three scenarios for compromising our candidate and sabotaging his election campaign. The first is to allow a 'leak of information' to the effect that the Communist Party is training strong-arm groups in order to seize power by force. I do not rule out that bogus groups could be set up and would give false evidence for money. Second: They will try to accuse us of financial machinations of some kind. Forged documents will be concocted and published showing that the party spent money illegally, including money from abroad, on its 1995 election campaign. Third: Attempts are being made to link the Communist Party with Dudayev's illegal activity by alleging that the Communist Party is holding secret talks with Dudayev. Once again I state that there are no groups, no financial machinations, and no pacts with Dudayev being formed by the Communist Party! And let Russians know in advance what acts of provocation could be in store."

Incidentally, there is no smoke without fire. Thirty minutes later V. Zhirinovskiy announced that the authorities are planning something for 1-2 May.

[Question] Nevertheless, television constantly shows that Yeltsin's rating is rising, while Zyuganov's stands still.

[Zyuganov] Well, it would grow, wouldn't it?! The first TV channel has been privatized, toadies have been installed in the second, and the leadership of the third has been included in the current president's campaign staff. All three channels are under one candidate's thumb, and are making a show of "democracy"!

[Question] The president is making active use of his household and family members in his election campaign, but you are not.

[Zyuganov] When you have less and less supporters and allies with every passing day, you have to bring on your last available reserves! [Zyuganov ends]

And again Zyuganov was applauded by the journalists.

Russia: Registration of Presidential Election Candidates Ends

LD1604174696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 16 Apr 96

[By Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Itar-Tass) — Today, the term expired envisaged by Russian law for submitting documents to the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] for registration of candidates for the Russian presidency.

A group of supporters of Vyacheslav Ushakov, president of the Moscow Investment Fund, was the last to turn in 1.16 million signatures to the CEC just before 18.00 Moscow time.

Minutes earlier, another group handed over the signatures in support of YuriyVlasov, a former heavy-weight lifting champion, writer and State Duma deputy.

At 17.30, the Central Electoral Committee received documents from the group which nominated Conservative Party leader Lev Ubozhko for the presidency.

CEC secretary Aleksandr Veshnyakov said the Central Electoral Commission will meet on Friday to consider registration as candidates for president of economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy retired general Aleksandr Lebed,

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eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fedorov and one of the pioneers of free enterprise in Russia Artem Tarasov.

Russia: Rejected Candidate Protests Electoral Commission's Methods

MM1704113096 Moscow TRUD in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Nikolay Gorelov: "The Residence Permit as a Means of Selection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 13 April the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK], having examined the question of the registration of Martin Shakkum, first vice president of the International Foundation for Economic and Social Reforms, as a candidate for the post of president of Russia, adopted a negative decision. The grounds — an insufficient number of signatures in support of the candidate.

M. Shakkum's action group submitted 1.415 million signatures to the TsIK. After overall rejections totaling 11 percent, the candidate was still left with more than 1.2 million signatures. However, the TsIK, in accordance with its new requirement for the submission of a separate list of collectors of signatures, made inquiries at district commissions and the Central Address Bureau with a view to verifying the existence of these collectors. All kinds of contradictory information started to come in from the localities, such as that the collector is not registered at that address, or that he cannot be found. That served as grounds for the TsIK to reject all signatures collected in a given region, where sometimes as many as 1,000 other collectors had worked. The action group removed some of the objections there and then: It located the people and confirmed their existence in telegrams authenticated by the district commissions. But since the TsIK made its inquiries at the last moment before registration, it was unable to complete a full check by that time. And, on the basis of unverified reports, it "cut down" the number of accepted signatures to 890,000, which automatically put the candidate outside the ranks of those allowed to take part in the election marathon.

This method, Martin Shakkum said, commenting on the TsIK decision, puts into the TsIK's hands a foolproof tool for determining to its own liking the number and composition of the registered presidential candidates. Since the abolished residence permit has been replaced in many places today by the registration norm, while passport offices, like many budget organizations, are not funded and their activities are in neglect, it is hard to trust the accuracy of the information submitted to the TsIK. Furthermore, on the lists of signatures it was required to indicate the place of residence, not the place of registration, and that was what certain collectors did. Yet the TsIK is using the residence permit, an attribute of the totalitarian regime, now abolished, to "reject" those who do not suit, and thus the risk remains of turning the democratic procedure of the nomination and registration of candidates into a political game.

Russia: Party Spokesmen Answer Election Questions

MM1704092996 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 2

[Feature by Svetlana Kasumova: "Fellow Fighters Count Their Chances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Electoral Commission is continuing to register Russian presidential candidates. Officially the first to become candidates were Boris Yeltsin, Gennadiy Zyuganov, and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. These candidates represent the main political forces with the greatest influence in society. And it must be supposed that being first on the Central Electoral Commission lists they will be the first and main candidates at the finishing stages of the election struggle.

And so three questions for representatives of the groups and movements which nominated these candidates.

1. What are the main advantages of your candidate which could play a decisive role during the forthcoming presidential elections?

2. How is your work in the regions proceeding? Is it possible to called any of these regions "yours" yet?

3. What is your attitude toward the prospect of your political rivals coming to power and what will you do in that case?

Sergey Belyayev, leader of the Russia Is Our Home [NDR] faction:

1. I do not think that I am revealing secrets to anyone. We can all remember the innovative, powerful moves which Boris Nikolayevich has always made in critical, decisive situations. Moves which have brought him success even when few members of Russia's political elite believed in that success.

Now too Boris Nikolayevich is taking decisive, very radical steps. That applies to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Chechnya and compensation for investments in the savings bank, the construction of housing for young families, the solution of the problem of the prompt payment of pensions and wages for Russians, and the intensification of integration between the CIS countries.... But the other presidential candidates are

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trying to reap their election harvest by criticizing every step Boris Yeltsin takes.

But Boris Yeltsin's advantage over his rivals lies precisely in the fact that he is a man of action, a man of deeds. He is opposed by people skilled in verbal balancing acts. Yet in contrast to 1917 in our country the people are now all literate and you can no longer surprise anyone with verbal balancing acts and thus attract them to your side.

2. As for the work of the regional NDR sections, as far as I know everything is proceeding normally there without fuss, in a thorough manner. As was the case during the parliamentary elections. It is not for nothing that now the faction, despite the fact that at the time of the elections the NDR was just six months old, is the second largest in the State Duma.

3. I regard this prospect without particular enthusiasm. Actually, I do not particularly believe that Russia will find itself on the edge of world civilization again and in miserable solitude again.

But if, god forbid, this happens, the NDR faction will enter into opposition to the regime. In any case I do not believe that the threat of a return to the times of the politburo is a serious or long-lived one. Indeed these elections are the last chance for the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] to achieve something. And that chance is tenuous enough.

Viktor Zorkaltsev, member of the CPRF Central Committee Presidium.

1. His closeness to people — that is what distinguishes Gennadiy Zyuganov. The platform of the candidate from the people's patriotic forces has essentially been produced through suffering over these years and reflects the interests of the majority of the population. The task is to obtain support that is as broad as possible. The presidential candidate and his aktiv are engaged in this now.

We have no money for advertising on television and in the newspapers. But our main advantage is our direct link with people. It does not matter whether it is an audience of five, a hundred, or even several thousand people, as was the case during Gennadiy Andreyevich's recent trips. As a rule meetings with the candidates are always of a lively nature. People ask questions, express doubts, seek things out. And we like that. People are turning increasingly actively to the ideas of justice, social peace, the restoration of the destroyed country and the peoples' wealth. That is toward everything which our candidate is offering in his platform.

2. We have 20,000 primary organizations in all components of the Federation except for Chechnya but that is not the main thing. Zyuganov comes not from the party but from the bloc of people's patriotic forces. Recently [illegible figure] youth organizations signed an appeal in our support and throughout our country as a whole 115 public organizations are already on our side. That is where our bloc's strength lies.

Perhaps our positions are weaker in large cities like Moscow, Leningrad, and Yekaterinburg. On the other hand they are stronger in cities with medium-sized populations. The rural intelligentsia and teachers — in brief, all those whose efforts and potential have proved unwanted today — are now turning to us.

3. We are doing everything to ensure that our victory takes place. And given honest elections I am sure we shall win.

Viktor Filatov, leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] ideological administration.

1. Our candidate is loved by the homeless, by women and children. And it is children who will make their parents vote for their favorite uncle. Because children, like dogs, can smell good people even at a distance.

Why am I sure that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy win? Because there are collective games — football, volleyball, and basketball — and there are individual sports like boxing. Well, boxing is our chief's sport and he is king there.

2. Our entire party is now on emergency alert. We are working only for the elections. We have brought the print runs of our newspapers — PRAVDA ZHIRINOVSKOGO, LDPR, SOKOL ZHIRINOVSKOGO, and LIBERAL — up to 7 million. We are now issuing our leader's addresses and speeches on thousands of copies of video and audio tapes. Last year and this year alone we published about 30 of his books. We are publishing leaflets, calendars, and recordings of his press conferences. And all this work is being done mainly for the outlying districts.

Which regions can we call "our own?" The South Urals, Krasnodar, Novosibirsk, the Far East. In Moscow and St. Petersburg, of course, we are weaker, but we are not counting on them particularly.

3. At any rate we shall not cover our heads with ashes. We shall simply remain in opposition and prepare for the next elections. Our "boxer" is still young and he still has everything ahead of him. And now, if he does not win, he will get the "gold medal" next time without fail.

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Baltics: Nordic, Baltic Councils Discuss NATO, EU Membership

LD1504171596 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1430 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Report by Ulla-Maija Maeaettaenen from Vilnius]

[FBIS Translated Text] Security policy issues have risen to the fore at the first joint meeting of the Nordic Council and the Baltic Council in Vilnius. The Nordic countries announced that they would support the Baltic countries' EU membership with every means possible.

The meeting of parliamentary deputies from the Nordic and Baltic countries here in Vilnius is the first of its kind. It is chiefly symbolic in nature and, at the same time, it is a demonstration of the Nordic countries' support for the three Baltic countries, the Nordic deputies said here today.

The Balts want to become full members of the European Union and the defense alliance NATO as quickly as possible. The Nordic countries support the first target, membership in the EU, while they shy away from NATO membership. Under a tacit decision, the European Union has pushed the preparation of the Baltic countries for EU membership onto the member countries in the north.

Minister Ole Norrback from Finland announced at the meeting in Vilnius that the Baltic countries are facing a heavy undertaking before the countries are in a state to join the EU. The list of changes is long: The countries must make the borders tight; crime and smuggling must be brought under control; illegal migration must be stopped; and they must join the Geneva refugee accord, which only Lithuania of the Baltic countries has done so far.

Estonia, for instance, thinks that joining the Geneva refugee accord is a far too expensive solution at present. On the other hand, Estonia was given to understand that thanks to its rapid economic development, it could join the European Union as the first of the Baltic countries.

In Vilnius, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas criticized the Estonians' solo performance, stressing the importance of cooperation between the Baltic countries. Brazauskas thinks that there are more things uniting the Baltic countries than dividing them. All three are also, more or less, on the same level economically, Brazauskas pointed out, noting that recently Estonia has tried to compete unfairly at the cost of the other Baltic countries. Minister Ole Norrback, for his part, stressed here in Vilnius that all countries seeking EU membership will be dealt with equally.

According to the Baltic countries, mere EU membership is not sufficient as a security guarantee, nor is the Partnership for Peace accord. The Balts are seeking full membership in the NATO defense alliance. (?The issue has, however, not been put on the table.) At present, it is impossible to get straight answers to questions about the Baltic countries' NATO membership. The matter will come up again tomorrow when NATO Secretary General Javier Solana starts his tour of the Baltic countries here in Vilnius — his reconnaissance trip as he describes it. Specific decisions, including decisions on expansion, are not expected from NATO until after the Russian presidential elections.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Apr

LD1704053496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0444 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 17 (ITAR-TASS) — Today's newspapers highlight President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the Krasnodar region. "Rossiyskiye Vesti" says that "resolute decisions to eliminate late payouts of pensions and wages and restore peace in Chechnya have moved the hearts of the Krasnodar people. The president's rating in the Krasnodar and Stavropol regions has grown almost threefold."

"Izvestiya" comments on the presidential campaign in Russia. On Tuesday, the Central Electoral Commission completed a procedure of accepting signatures in support of presidential candidates. This day was full of fuss, the newspaper said. A newspaper report by Anatoliy Stepanov and Yuriy Senatorov entitled "Heaps of signatures unloaded in sacks" outlined the details of this pre-election procedure.

"Rossiyskiye Vesti" carries an interview with first deputy chief of the President's analytical department Vadim Pechenev who arrived at the conclusion that Boris Yeltsin's electorate rallied around the idea of stability. "Supporters of this idea realize that this country has neither material, nor psychological resources to stand other major shocks both of the left and the right-wing orientation," Pechenev said. He believes that one should be prepared that the elections will be held in two rounds.

"Rossiyskaya Gazeta" comments on the implementation of the president's decree on the payment of overdue wages which involved many ministries and services, including the federal taxation police. The newspaper carries an interview with Chief of the federal taxation police Sergey Almazov who commented on problems of tax evasion. In particular, General Almazov noted that

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this problem involves the use of budgetary funds as well. Since January, 1996 the taxation police has disclosed hundreds of incidents of misappropriation of budgetary funds which totalled around one trillion roubles, the newspaper said.

"Krasnaya Zvezda" carries a detailed account about Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to the Urals military district for inspection purposes.

"Pravda" carries an interview with chairman of the Duma committee for economic policies Yuriy Maslyukov who outlines ways of further social and economic development of the country in the next decade.

"Rossiyskaya Gazeta" publishes a commentary entitled "Dudayev's sister hopes for peace" in connection with a possible mediatory mission at peace talks in Chechnya by Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev.

"Komsomolskaya Pravda" rejects an opinion expressed by representative of a non-proliferation and international security department of the US Los-Alamos National Laboratory Josef Pilat about the absence of the "black market" of nuclear materials in the world. Yevgeniy Strigunov, a journalist working for the newspaper, said that he could buy strontium in Odessa sold at 35.000 dollars per gram. The newspaper quoted experts who commented on a threat posed by this dangerous substance. "If a grenade attached to a small cylinder containing strontium goes off all living creatures at a distance of one kilometer from the place of the explosion will be exposed to radiation incompatible with life," experts said.

"Izvestiya" comments on the results of local elections in the Shakovskoy region where voters preferred former secretary of the regional CPSU Committee Vasiliy Bak to Nikolay Travkin, former chief of the administration of the Shakovskoy district in the Moscow region.

"Argumenty I Fakty" carries an article about Russia's gold-prospecting industry.

"Izvestiya" comments on problems which appeared after the US had put new 100-dollar banknotes into circulation. "In Russia, new dollars are not treated as money yet," says an article by Aleksey Savin who visited several currency exchange offices and the customs service at Sheremetyevo airport. Customs officials do not allow new 100-dollar bills out of the country with certificates attached issued before new dollar bills appeared in Russia. There are no apparatuses at currency exchanges to check the authenticity of new bills and citizens prefer to deal with old 100-dollar bills arising no doubt, the newspaper said.

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Russia: Yeltsin: Ties With CIS States Foreign Policy Priority

LD1604125596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 16 Apr 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy and Viktor Zhilyakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNODAR, April 16 (Itar-Tass) — Relations with member-countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States must remain the main direction of Russia's foreign policy, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in Krasnodar today.

According to Yeltsin, the country's foreign policy in this respect should aim to promote dynamic integration of all CIS member-states.

Yeltsin said that the agreement between Russia and Belarus and the treaty of four (Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) only marked the beginning.

In signing those accords, the participating countries sought to strengthen their community. "Our countries and citizens now have more opportunities for cooperation in economic, production and trade projects, as well as in education and culture," the President stressed.

The Russian head of state noted that the signatory countries wanted to bring their respective laws closer together and act in a way that would make social insurance equally available to all citizens of the participating countries.

In addition, the signatory countries want to have a formally fixed common economic, energy, transport and education space. "It will be genuine integration, rapprochement for the sake of people," Yeltsin stressed.

According to Yeltsin, the Caucasus direction has always been important in Russia's foreign policy. He stressed in particular that Russia was seeking to coordinate its every step in this far-from-simple region with the interests of its inhabitants.

The Russian President said Russia wanted closer interaction with Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia not only in their joint integration pursuits but also in ensuring peace and stability in and around the Caucasus.

Russia: Yeltsin: Black Sea Fleet Part of 'Strategic Security'

LD1604131996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 16 Apr 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy and Viktor Zhilyakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNODAR, April 16 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today expressed the confidence that the question of the Black Sea fleet will be decided without detriment to Russia's interests.

He said he is unyielding on the question of the Black Sea fleet basing for the reason that the Black Sea fleet is "part of Russia's strategic security, an earnest of stability in the Black Sea fleet."

At the same time, the Russian president said that Russia has always showed and will be showing maximum goodwill to Ukraine and respect for its sovereignty and independence.

At a meeting with the public of Krasnodar the Russian president said that Russia will do everything to ensure its vital interests in the Black Sea so that the region be secure for all.

"I believe Russia needs a long-term programme of the modernisation of the marine economy in the Black Sea. Russia will not be Russia without the Black Sea fleet," he said. "This is not only a matter of history, not only national feelings and prestige. Russia needs to have a fleet in the Black Sea in order to protect reliably its Black Sea lands, the Northern Caucasus."

The president said the Black Sea fleet is an indispensable element of Russia's strategic security, a factor of the balance of forces, and not only in the Black Sea basin. "This is why, as it is sometimes said, I am unyielding on matters of basing of our fleet," Yeltsin said. "This is not obstinacy. I am striving to protect Russia's interests and I am sure that we shall settle that matter without the damage to our interests."

Regarding relations with Ukraine Yeltsin said that Russia wants to see Ukraine as a prosperous, democratic, strong country, firmly advancing along the road of reform.

As regards a full-scale political treaty between the two countries, the document is almost ready for the signing, the President said. But the president believes that he cannot sign the treaty unless the question of the destiny of the Black Sea fleet and its basing is decided in the way worthy of Russia. The general treaty and the agreement on the Black Sea fleet should be decided together in a package, Yeltsin said. It is only than that the foundation of our friendship will be really strong, he said.

Russia: Spokesman Criticizes Clinton Proposal for Korea Meeting

LD1604130796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1232 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 16 Apr — Moscow has taken note of President Clinton's proposal for

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holding a quadripartite meeting on a settlement of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, to include China, the United States, the Republic of Korea, and North Korea, Mikhail Demurin, first deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry information and press department, told a briefing here today. He noted, however, that the U.S. initiative has a "restricted format and, as experience shows, such proposals do not lead to positive results."

Russia believes, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, issues relating to the normalization of the situation on the Korean peninsula should be tackled by all parties concerned and taking all factors into consideration.

The diplomat thinks "the format of an international conference" would be more constructive. This approach by Russia, Mikhail Demurin said, has been prompted by its interest in securing stability in the regions bordering Russia.

Russia: Kokoshin, Kolesnikov Meet With Admiral Boorda

MM1704105896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 3

["Own Information" report: "Meeting at Russian Federation Defense Ministry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, and Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, received Admiral Jeremy Boorda, U.S. chief of naval operations, who is visiting the Russian Federation.

Questions of Russian-U.S. military cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation, and Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, took part in the meeting.

Russia: Duma Communists Denounce Israeli Air Strikes on Lebanon

LD1704103396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0914 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 17 — The Communist faction of the State Duma urged the Russian Federal Assembly and Russian government to resolutely denounce Israeli air strikes on Lebanon carried out in recent days.

In a statement circulated in the State Duma today communists called to back the Lebanese demand asking to hold an urgent session of the UN Security Council.

The communist faction believes it necessary to influence the Israeli authorities via diplomatic channels for purposes of deterrence and urged to send a corresponding message from Russia's Federal Assembly and its government to the Israeli parliament and its Prime Minister.

Russia: Foreign Ministry To Ask Turkey's Demirel To Mediate

LD1604124196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Interfax) — The Russian Foreign Ministry will contact Turkey and invite President Suleyman Demirel to mediate the talks with Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, if Russian President Boris Yeltsin agrees, a high-ranking official from the ministry told Interfax Monday evening.

Demirel was named as a possible go-between at the talks with Moscow by Dudayev, who personally called the Interfax office in Moscow and made a statement.

Under the constitution, Russian foreign policy is determined by the president, said the diplomat. "We will fulfil any instructions from the head of state," the official said, adding that Yeltsin is now touring south Russia.

Meanwhile, the Turkish embassy refrained from commenting on Dudayev's statement but promised to immediately report the official reaction of Ankara when it becomes known.

Russia: Primakov 'Silent' on Turkish Mediation on Chechnya

LD1604155996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 16 Apr 96

["Primakov Silent on Turkish Mediation In Chechen Settlement"— INTERFAX headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Interfax) — Russia's Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov Tuesday abstained from disclosing in an interview with Interfax how Moscow views Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's possible mediation in the talks with Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. Neither did he say whether the Russian side had asked the Turkish leader to play such a role.

"As far as I know, Dudayev did not ask the Mongolian side for mediation," he told a press conference in Moscow following his talks with his Mongolian counterpart, Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren.

"These questions were not discussed during the talks with the Mongolian foreign minister," he said.

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Dzhokhar Dudayev named Demirel as a possible intermediary in the talks with Moscow in a telephone interview with Interfax. Dudayev does not rule out that Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Malaysian prime minister or the king of Jordan might mediate in the negotiating process.

Russia: Germany's Kinkel Calls For Rapid Settlement in Chechnya

LD1604170396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 16 Apr 96

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GENEVA, April 16 (Itar-Tass) - German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Tuesday called for a rapid settlement in Chechnya under the peace plane proposed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Addressing a Geneva meeting of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights today, Kinkel said the need for a political settlement of the Chechnya crisis is long overdue.

Now that Russia is in the Council of Europe, it has vowed to resolve its internal and external conflicts by peaceful means and with strict compliance with international law, Kinkel said.

President Yeltsin has proposed the peace plan which should be fulfilled, he went on to say.

Kinkel sees a truce and a stop to destruction as a crucial condition for the settlement.

Human rights must be observed, he said, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe should make its contribution to this.

Russia: Russian Diplomat Cited on Nuclear Cooperation With Iran

NC1604141496 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Persian 1500 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Commentary by Sergey Viktorov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the hue and cry about Russian- Iranian cooperation on nuclear energy, primarily concerning the delivery of reactors for the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, cooperation is continuing normally. Russian experts will work on the power plant and, apparently, work will progress on the basis of the timetable that has been agreed upon.

In Moscow at least they believe that Russian-Iranian cooperation has a good future. Several days ago Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev told INTERFAX that there are other projects on Russian-Iranian cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, but that things have not yet reached the point of exchanging agreements on implementation.

In this interview, speaking as a diplomat, Albert Chernyshev referred to the political aspects of the issue. He said he believes that the construction of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant with Russia's cooperation will not create possibilities for Iran to use nuclear technology for military purposes. After all, according to the Russian-Iranian agreement, the construction and use of this nuclear power plant will be carried out under international control, namely, under the control of the International Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO].

As Albert Chernyshev said, Russia is more concerned than the United States about the emergence of a nuclear power, especially near its border. The nuclear issue is an extremely delicate issue. While cooperating with Iran in this field, Moscow is obliged to observe the international norms that regulate cooperation. Iran's not giving the IAEO the necessary pretexts for harboring suspicions that Iran wishes to manufacture nuclear weapons is another issue. But the United States accuses the Iranian leadership of pursuing such ambitions.

Washington's strict anti-Iranian policy is regarded with extreme pessimism and doubts in Russia and in several European countries. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev described America's policy on isolating and even on imposing a political-economic siege on Iran as not thought out. According to the Russian diplomat, Moscow will continue to strive, not to isolate Tehran, but to expand mutually beneficial cooperation with Iran.

Russia: Official: Bushehr Station Poses 'No Danger' to Security

LD1504144096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1320 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Apr — The Russian-Iranian contract for the construction of the nuclear power station in Bushehr will not be discussed at the Moscow meeting of the G-8 heads of states on 19 and 20 April. The bilateral agreement in question poses no danger to international security, according to Georgiy Kaurov, ITAR-TASS head of directorate for public relations of the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy.

He said that it is practically impossible to make an atomic bomb out of the milligrams of plutonium isotopes that develop in the process of the work of the light-water reactor. In order to make such a bomb, one would

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need thousands times more material as well as a special radio-chemical industry. Therefore the Russian-Iranian contract for the construction of the nuclear atomic power station in Bushehr can have no "military" consequences and will pose no danger to international security.

The specialist stressed that according to the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the member states must help one another if their atomic sites are monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The IAEA experts regularly visit Iran, including the Bushehr site for the construction of the atomic power station. So, Russia and Iran have been abiding by the nonproliferation treaty in this respect.

The bilateral contract was signed in January 1995. It provides for the construction of one block with a light-water reactor in Bushehr within 55 months. Russian nuclear experts are taking direct part in the work on the station's site and in the training of Iranian atomic station controllers. The cost of the contract is about $800 million.

Russia: Yeltsin Directive on Sale of Arms, Equipment to Rwanda

MM1604122896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 4

[Russian Federation President's Directive No. 168, dated 9 April 1996 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin: "On Measures To Fulfill UN Security Council Resolution No. 1011 of 16 August 1995" — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. In connection with the UN Security Council's adoption of Resolution No. 1011 of 16 August 1995, all state establishments, industrial, trade, financial, transportation, and other enterprises, firms, banks, organizations, and private persons under the Russian Federation's jurisdiction are to proceed in their activities from the premise that:

a) the validity of the restrictions imposed by the UN Security Council in accordance with Resolution No. 918 (1994) and provided for in the Russian Federation President's directive No. 395 of 21 July 1994 has been suspended until 1 September 1996 with regard to the sale or delivery of arms and military materials of all kinds to the Rwandan Government;

b) it is permitted to make deliveries of arms and military materials to the Rwandan Government only through the crossing points indicated in the list defined by the Rwandan Government;

c) no arms or military materials sold or delivered to the Rwandan Government may be resold to, passed on to, or placed at the disposal of any state whatever that neighbors on Rwanda or to a person who is not in service with the Rwandan Government, either directly or indirectly;

d) the ban on the sale or delivery of arms and military materials of all kinds to Rwanda or to persons in states neighboring on Rwanda, if such sale or delivery is intended for the use of these arms and military materials in Rwanda in addition to use by the Rwandan Government, as provided for in this directive, fully remains its force.

2. The Russian State Committee for Military-Technical Policy, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federal Security Service, the Russian State Customs Committee, the Russian Ministry of Defense, the Russian Ministry of Transport, the Russian Ministry of the Economy, the Russian State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, and organizations which have the right to participate in military-technical cooperation are to take measures within the framework of their competence to ensure compliance with the restrictions listed in Subpoints "b," "c," and "d" of Point 1 of this directive.

3. The Russian State Committee for Military-Technical Policy is to ensure that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is sent information on the export of arms and military materials to Rwanda from Russian Federation territory for subsequent notification to the UN Security Council committee established in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 918 (1994).

4. On the expiry of the term indicated in Subpoint "a" of Point 1 of this directive the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to submit for the Russian Federation president's consideration appropriate recommendations on the results of the UN Security Council's examination of the regime for selling and delivering arms and military materials of all kinds to Rwanda brought into force by UN Security Council Resolution No. 1011 (1995).

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin.
[Dated] 9 April 1996.

Russia: Yeltsin Instructs Chernomyrdin on Belarus Treaty

MM1704101696 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Integration Going Deep"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has issued a number of instructions to Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman

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of the country's government, in connection with the implementation of the implementation of the treaty on the intensification of integration between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan and the Russian-Belarusian treaty on deeper integration signed in Moscow recently. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI was told this by the Russian Federation president's press service.

Our information. B. Yeltsin has approved the nomination of Vice Premier A. Bolshakov, submitted to him by V. Chernomyrdin, for the post of deputy chairman of the integration committee created in accordance with the quadripartite treaty. The head of state has also instructed the leaders of a number of departments to take prompt steps to fulfill the first decision of the Supreme Council of the Community of Russia and Belarus and to render the necessary aid to the Russian-Belarusian executive committee which has just been created and to its apparatus.

Russia: Military Cooperation Agreement With Kazakhstan Ratified

MM1704105496 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Makashin: "We Will Protect Baykonur Together"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia and Kazakhstan will henceforth cooperate and collaborate in ensuring the security of the Baykonur complex, the Russian Federation military formations temporarily stationed on Kazakhstan's territory, and individuals belonging to them. The relevant agreement signed by the heads of states in December 1994 has been ratified by the Federation Council.

In the opinion of the Federation Council Committee for CIS Affairs and the Committee for Security and Defense Issues, the Russian side's ratification of this document will make it possible to ensure effective collaboration in organizing the reliable protection and defense of Baykonur's facilities and will be conducive to the further development of relations between the two states in the military-political sphere, as well as to the preservation of the CIS common defense area.

Russia: Prosecutor Extradites Former Defense Minister to Azerbaijan

LD1604123996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Interfax) — The Russian Prosecutor General handed over to Azerbaijan former defense minister Ragim Gaziyev detained by Moscow police Sunday, the Prosecutor's office told Interfax Tuesday. Gaziyev was sentenced to death by firing squad in his home country.

The decision to surrender Gaziyev was made Monday, an office representative said. The Azerbaijani side "has already taken the detained under its jurisdiction," he said.

Such a decision was premature, as Gaziyev did not yet have an attorney, a source near Gaziyev told Interfax.

Azerbaijan's former president Ayaz Mutalibov, who was detained last Friday and is also wanted by Azerbaijan, is still in hospital after suffering from heart trouble.

His attorney's name will become known Tuesday, a source near Mutalibov told Interfax.

The decision on Mutalibov's transfer could be made within a month, a Prosecutor's office representative said.

In accordance with the agreement between Russia and Azerbaijan on mutual legal aid, the Prosecutor General "has requested additional materials in the case of Mutalibov which prove his guilt," the representative said.

"Russian law enforcement agencies had no doubt [as to the guilt of] Gaziyev, but the Prosecutor General does not yet have enough evidence to hand over Mutalibov," he said.

Azerbaijan has accused Gaziyev, along with other top military officials, of surrendering the towns of Shusha and Lachin. Gaziyev escaped from a investigative chamber of the republic's security ministry September 22, 1995. An international search has been underway ever since.

Gaziyev is also accused of participating in coup attempts in October 1994 and March 1995. The military collegium of the Azerbaijan High Court sentenced Gaziyev, after he had already escaped, to be shot.

Mutalibov was elected president of Azerbaijan September 8, 1991, but resigned the post and fled to Moscow under pressure from the Azerbaijan Popular Front, led by Abulfaz Elchibey, who was subsequently elected president.

He is accused under Articles 188 and 192 of the Azerbaijani Criminal Code for "organizing mass disorder" and "attempting to seize power." He is also accused of "silence and inactivity" when Soviet troops entered Baku in January 1990 to restore order, killing over 130 people, wounding 700, according to official figures. Another 40 people were reported missing.

Mutalibov, according to the current Azerbaijani government, is one of the main culprits in the surrender of the Azerbaijani villages to Armenian forces in the Nagorno-Karabakh war zone in autumn of 1992.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin's Talk With Regional Leaders Summarized

MM1704102496 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI ("Political Wednesday" supplement) in Russian 17 Apr 96 p iii

[Unattributed report: "There Will Never Be a Return to the Soviet System"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Friday [12 April] Boris Yeltsin met with leaders of the representative organs of Federation components. This was the Russian president's first meeting with the heads of legislatures of all the republics, krays, and oblasts in the country. What did the head of state say during this business-like and detailed discussion?

On Local Legislation

Russia will have a truly democratic, prosperous, and civilized future only on the basis of the development of federalism, the president believes. In his opinion the adoption of the new Russian Constitution in December 1993 was a fundamental step which gave the oblasts and krays equal status with the republics within Russia and empowered the representative organs to issue their own laws. Since then local lawmaking has developed very rapidly. New constitutional charters have already been adopted in more than one-half of Federation components. But this process, the president pointed out, has a reverse side. One of the main problems is that laws adopted at local level are not always professionally prepared and by no means all of them are founded on principles enshrined in the Russian Constitution.

In the president's opinion, the federal organs of power must adopt a common approach toward the evaluation of the charters and constitutions adopted by the Federation components. In addition, the state's integrity is a sacred principle of federalism. It is intolerable that normative acts adopted by some legislative assemblies undermine the state system.

The head of state also noted that the federal lawmaking process is lagging behind regional lawmaking and that laws connected with the development of federal relations are making extremely difficult and slow progress in the State Duma. Some draft laws in this sphere have been submitted to the Duma by the president and the government, he said, but have been rejected by deputies. However, their adoption cannot be delayed any longer.

On the Timing of Regional Elections

The issue of the term of office of local legislative organs is another tricky problem. In a number of regions deputies' mandates have already expired or are going to expire in the near future. However, the date of new elections has not been fixed and in addition there is no legislative base for holding them. The president recalled that this is why he signed an edict in September last year extending the powers of the representative organs. Unfortunately this edict has not been implemented in a number of regions and this could have serious consequences, first and foremost that the Federation Council will no longer have a quorum.

The head of state also expressed his categorical disagreement with those people who favor regional elections during the Russian presidential election campaign period. He advised the audience to reconsider such decisions and postpone the elections to a later date. At the same time Boris Yeltsin supported the earliest possible adoption of the law "On Elections to the Legislative (Representative) Organs of State Power of Federation Components" which, in his opinion, would make it possible to resolve most of the acute problems.

On Mutual Relations Between the Center and the Regions

Boris Yeltsin asked the participants in the meeting to study the draft law "On the Main Provisions of Regional Policy in the Russian Federation" and to submit their proposals on its improvement.

In Russia, he said, powers are being transferred from the center to the regions on a massive scale. The time has now come when "political federalism must extend to socioeconomic federalism." This applies primarily to the development of budget federalism, the president noted. He also remarked that the regions' rights in the accumulation and use of financial resources, first and foremost in the tax sphere, have been expanded considerably.

On the Settlement of the Budget Debt

The federal center, the head of state noted, has given and will continue to give financial assistance to the Federation components. This is the strategic line. In the months ahead the normal practice of support for regional budgets will be reinstated.

Almost all the regions have been given the means to clear the budget-funded wage arrears. Work is currently being done to clear the pension arrears. A schedule for the settlement of the debt has been drawn up and it will be binding on all state organs centrally and locally. Boris Yeltsin stated that he has set a tough task — to settle the pension arrears as early as April.

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On Transformations in the Country

On the subject of the presidential elections the head of state expressed his categorical disagreement with some contenders' extreme approaches toward the idea of transformations in the country. Some are aimed at halting the restructuring that is in progress and at beginning to dismantle what has already been built up, while others, conversely, believe that the reforms have not even started.

In fact Boris Yeltsin is convinced that in the past five years the country has traversed a road that is the equivalent of a whole era. The Constitution which has been adopted ensures political stability. Free, democratic elections have become a firm part of life. There has been consistent progress in the formation of the market economy even if it has been slow and not without difficulties.

On the Social Cost of the Reforms

The rise in prices has been successfully curbed on the basis of the formation of the market economy. Inflation in February and March was negligible and has averaged around 3 percent throughout the reform period. By the end of the year it should be no more than 1 percent a month. In addition, the budget deficit has been reduced by two-thirds. There is a qualitative improvement in production. The task now is to encourage real investment processes.

In addition, Boris Yeltsin recognized that the social cost of the reforms has been high. He gave an assurance that as president he has drawn the necessary conclusions. The state has already adopted certain measures to intensify the social thrust of the reform policy. This policy will be consistently pursued in the future too.

The Course May Be Adjusted But There Must Be No Deviation From It

Boris Yeltsin issued a warning to supporters of a return to the Soviet system. If Soviet power is restored all the advantages that the Russian Constitution has given the people will be lost, he is convinced. The president stated firmly that the Soviets will never be revived in Russia.

The head of state stressed in conclusion that his duty and the duty of all those to whom the people have entrusted the levers of power is to continue the path begun five years ago. The course can and must be adjusted but there must be no deviation from it.

Russia: Yeltsin Remarks on Elections, Reforms, Ukraine

LD1604165396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 16 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] President Boris Yeltsin laid wreaths at the Krasnodar memorial to WWII casualties during the first day of his working visit to the Krasnodar area.

Yeltsin promised veterans that by the end of April or beginning of May pensions will be increased 25 percent, with the more significant increases going to those with minimal pensions.

The law on veterans approved by the Duma "was not economically thought through, and, if we carry it out now, we'll just have to give up our budget," he said.

Yeltsin said he intends to sign two orders — one for government support of the socioeconomic development of the Krasnodar area until 2000, and another for government support of Russia's agricultural sector.

One resident asked the president to "be Ilya Muromets [the legendary Russian warrior], and not let the country fall apart." Yeltsin announced that he would do so, stressing his firm belief in Russia's unity.

One elderly resident proposed that Yeltsin not run for president. "And who would you elect then?" asked Yeltsin.

"Someone," was the reply. Yeltsin said he cannot share this opinion and accept the proposal.

"To continue the reforms, it is necessary to elect the one who began them," he said. "A new guard, a new order, could be fatal for Russia. No reform has ever been carried through to its conclusion in the history of Russia. I hope to finish the reforms in Russia. It has become my life's work," Yeltsin said.

Speaking later at the Krasnodar Drama Theater, he said his visit to the region once again confirmed the essence of the changes occurring in Russia. "People have stopped being afraid," he said. "They're not afraid anymore to tell things as they are, put questions the hard way, honestly and openly discuss any issues, criticize the president. There was a time," he said, "when you lost your freedom for this."

"It was difficult for me to force myself to enter the election campaign," he said. "I went through a lot, knowing well the pluses and the minuses of this job."

"The President of Russia must have self-possession and patience, because the nation's calm depends on him," he

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said. "He needs to withstand the pressure of any party or movement without becoming anyone's puppet. The Russian president can't get dizzy upon the height where the voters have set him. He must have the manhood to take full responsibility upon himself at the critical moment," he said.

"That is why I feel it my duty to win," Yeltsin said.

He understands the dissatisfaction of Russians with the costs of reforms. "Some people are growling about reforms," he said, and he gets plenty of abuse. "In the long history of Russia, no one has been criticized as long or as hard as the first president of Russia," he said. But, "I will take it and get through it," Yeltsin said, "because that's not the main thing. The main thing is, no matter how we feel about reforms, we've unleashed the initiative of millions of people."

Further, he said, the positive results of reforms are already clear. The population's real earnings have increased, and one of every six regions has upped production, he said.

He expressed the country's mood in this way: "Enough getting poorer, it's time to get richer." Now, he said, "on the basis of what it has achieved, the country should move on to solid, normal, and healthy development."

The president listed paying back government debts "on government wages, pensions, and on savings accounts [which have become valueless due to inflation]" as the main priorities of his administration. "Timely payment of salaries is not a pre-election act, but a normal and natural process, a mechanism for putting this place in order, and the federal and regional authorities must use it," he said.

"The Russian government has been told to come up with a project within three months for repaying savings accounts," Yeltsin said.

As for the war in Chechnya, Yeltsin said that "the military solution alone is not enough," and thus his peace plan. "Peace and order in Chechnya are now being achieved mainly through political means," he said.

Russia is ready "for a truly historic compromise both in the limited wide-ranging independence Chechnya will be given within the Russian Federation and in the real guarantees of the cessation of military activity," Yeltsin said.

But, he warned, those who "wish to use our good will to re-group their forces and prepare new terrorist acts" are mistaken.

There should be no territory in Russia "controlled by criminal, terrorist forces," he said. "To free Chechnya from criminals, we need to use various methods, among them forcible ones.

"The result of our military activity has been that Dudayev's main forces are broken, and that is the achievement of our army," he said.

He said the government was ready to "solve the refugee problem." According to his figures, the Krasnodar area has been "settled by a tenth of the refugees to Russia, and this is despite the fact that Kuban is not an underpopulated territory, and there are no fallow lands or lack of resources here."

The refugee problem in Krasnodar must be solved with the government's support, he said, which is why the area's administration and the federal government must "work out in the next month which problems need joint solutions." He also said he signed orders for measures to support the socioeconomic development of the area from 1996 to 2000.

This order calls for settling refugees, developing agriculture, solidifying the transport and energy infrastructures, developing the area's resorts, and improving the conditions for international investment, he said.

Russia is especially interested in the Black Sea, he said. "Our country needs a single, long-term program for modernizing our industry in the Black Sea," he said.

Especially important for Russia's fate is the Black Sea Fleet, "the pride and glory of our superpower. Without the Black Sea Fleet, Russia is not Russia," he said.

"The Fleet is not just history, not just a national feeling, not just prestige," Yeltsin said. "Russia needs a fleet on the Black Sea in order to securely defend our lands on the Black Sea shore and the Northern Caucasus, and it is necessary for the nation's security as a whole."

The fleet means stability on the Black Sea. Therefore, when people say that Russia "doesn't back down" on the issue of the fleet's base, "this is not stubbornness, but a desire to defend Russia's interests," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin considers relations with Ukraine Russia's main foreign policy priority. Russia, he said, would like to see in Ukraine a "flourishing, democratic, strong country, firmly on the path of reforms."

The impetus for developing relations between the two governments, Yeltsin said, will be a wide-ranging agreement which "is almost ready to be signed."

"But without a satisfactory decision on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and its base, I cannot sign this agreement," he said.

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Russia: Yeltsin Stresses Necessity of Economic Reforms

LD1604153996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNODAR, April 16 (Interfax) — President Boris Yeltsin said Tuesday he understands the Russian people's dissatisfaction with the cost of economic reforms, but believes it is necessary to adapt to life with a free market, and that there is no way back.

"Some people are growling about reforms," he told Krasnodar residents in the city's theater, and much of the abuse is piled on him. "In the long history of Russia, no one has been criticized as long or as hard as the first president of Russia," he said. But, "I will take it and get through it," Yeltsin said, "because that's not the main thing. The main thing is, no matter how we feel about reforms, we've unleashed the initiative of millions of people."

Further, he said, the positive results of reforms are already clear. The population's real earnings have increased, and one of every six regions has upped production, he said.

He expressed the country's mood in this way: "Enough getting poorer, it's time to get richer." Now, he said, "on the basis of what it has achieved, the country should move on to solid, normal, and healthy development."

The president listed paying back government debts "on government wages, pensions, and on savings accounts (which have become valueless due to inflation)" as the main priorities of his administration. "Timely payment of salaries is not a pre-election act, but a normal and natural process, a mechanism for putting this place in order, and the federal and regional authorities must use it," he said.

"The Russian government has been told to come up with a project within three months for repaying savings accounts," Yeltsin said.

Russia: Yeltsin Comments on Quality of Life Issues

LD1704111296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1046 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Styazhkin, Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BUDENNOVSK, Stavropol territory, April 17 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today declared that Russian reforms would increasingly be steered to meet the interests of the country's working people.

The Russian President, who was speaking at a meeting with inhabitants of Russia's southern city of Budennovsk he was visiting as part of his tour of Southern European Russia, announced a set of measures he thought it necessary to implement first of all to this end.

He said he had instructed the government to ensure effective indexation of salaries and their timely payment to the employees in the budget-supported sphere. He added that the same would be demanded of private and stock companies.

Another important task is to restore order in the payment of pensions and to speed up the development of a system providing additional pensions benefits, Yeltsin said. He declared that the government had been told to pay all delayed pensions in April and said he was keeping an eye on the fulfilment of his instruction on a daily basis.

The presidential set of measures aiming to enhance order in the socio-economic sphere includes more target support of the Russia's most vulnerable citizens within the lower income bracket, additional activity aimed at containing unemployment and reducing the strike movement by the more effective use of the social partnership levers.

Yeltsin said more assistance would be made available to people seeking to solve their housing problems. Other measures aim to narrow the gaps in individual incomes and reduce social inequality in Russia.

Russia: Yeltsin Aide Filatov To Quit Post After Election

LD1604155096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YAROSLAVL, April 16 (Interfax) — The former chief of the Russian presidential administration, Sergey Filatov, who currently heads a coordinating committee of the movement in support of Boris Yeltsin's re-election, does not intend to quit politics, but will not take any official post after the presidential elections, slated for June 16.

Like former First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, he is not just participating in Yeltsin's campaign in order to get a post in the president's entourage in case Yeltsin is re-elected, he told a news conference in Yaroslavl Tuesday.

"We are struggling to preserve what has already been done for the creation and development of the new Russia," said Filatov.

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Russia: Party Pickets U.S. Embassy in Favor of NATO Expansion

LD1604154496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Interfax) — The Democratic Union of Russia picketed the U.S. embassy in Moscow Tuesday in support of NATO expansion, an Interfax correspondent reported.

Fifteen activists carried placards, which bore slogans such as "NATO Is the Rescue Army of Civilization," "Russia's Admission to NATO Will Save It From Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy," "NATO is the Stronghold of World Democracy," and so on.

The picketers handed over a statement which appealed against delays in the admission of Ukraine and Baltic, Central and East European countries to NATO, union leader Valeriya Novodvorskaya told Interfax.

If the Communists win the presidential elections next June, "only membership in NATO may save these states from occupation and red terror," she said.

Russia: Rifts Seen in CPRF Over Zyuganov Campaign

MM1604151796 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 96 p 2

[Article by Sergey Chugayev: "Will the Communists Manage To Cross a Hedgehog With a Grass Snake?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] appears very worried about leaks regarding the situation inside the party. Something 'kin to a political investigation system has, for example, been organized inside the CPRF faction in the Duma. A number of Communist deputies have been instructed to keep tabs on their party comrades' contacts and to report any dubious contacts to the proper quarter. As a result it is becoming dangerous for ordinary members of the faction to find themselves sitting at the same table as a democrat in the dining room. The most secluded corners of the Duma are being chosen for conversations with journalists from the non-Communist mass media. However, this situation has not so far prevented IZVESTIYA obtaining reports on what is happening behind the tightly closed doors of the party leaders' offices.

The party's brain is giving birth to monsters: The symbiosis of a hedgehog and a grass snake [Russian figure of speech used to refer to an attempt to marry two incompatible things] lies in wait after the "indestructible giant."

Presidential contender Zyuganov's election manifesto, published at the end of March, caused, as it turned out, not just amused bewilderment in the ranks of the Communists' opponents but also great uproar within the party. According to CPRF representatives themselves, the political damage suffered by the party as a result of this document is equivalent to the failure of the initiative in denouncing the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreements. The manifesto, which was more reminiscent of a report to a rayon party economic aktiv and which was chock full of arrant absurdities, brought into doubt the CPRF's very intellectual capacity, in which its leaders take so much pride.

Yet the party leaders had wanted to achieve the very best possible. Immediately after the December elections the Communists had mobilized all their best brains and thrown them into writing Zyuganov's election manifesto. Around 10 different organizations and groups took part in the work. These included the RAU — the corporation led by Communist Deputy A. Podberezkin (by a twist of fate the center is based at the Russian-American University, which was founded by the father of Russian democracy, G. Popov); a group of scientists under the leadership of Academician Koptyug, chief of the Russian Academy of Sciences Siberian Section; and a secret group of analysts working under A. Lukyanov.

The work was completed in February. The total amount of work generated hardly fitted on to three standard floppy disks. However, when the client, in the shape of Zyuganov and his aides, studied the results, they were horrified. The experts' proposals proved so diverse (from recreating a model close to war communism to building capitalism with a socialist face) that it was simply impossible to make them dovetail.

And time passed. The delay in publishing the Communist presidential candidate's election manifesto was becoming increasingly unseemly. And Zyuganov's aides decided to rescue the situation. A text, based it seemed on the CPRF leader's election speeches, was hastily compiled. Many points in the manifesto were, according to those who witnessed this creative process, "plucked out of the air." Everything was done so hurriedly that no one had time to read carefully through the final version. An unprecedented creature — "the epic indestructible giant" — and many other absurdities thus came to light.

The election manifesto scandal was discussed from the standpoint of party principle. The guilty (they, of course, were Zyuganov's speechwriters) received punishment. (There is talk in the faction that the publication of the manifesto was a deliberate attempt by Zyuganov to set up his internal party opponents). However, the situation had to be put right, in short order.

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The CPRF leadership then had the idea of making good the damage by presenting the people with the presidential contender's economic manifesto. It was the leaders' plan that it should be a really serious and sound document that would do away with the question of the party's ability to produce something more than banal political declarations. According to eyewitnesses, Zyuganov himself, when closeted with a small group of sympathizers, described the idea of preparing the economic manifesto as follows : "It will be an attempt to cross a hedgehog with a grass snake."

As it turned out, the CPRF leader was not far from the truth. Two groups upholding contrary manifesto models immediately formed within the party. The V. Kuptsov group, relying on Academician Koptyug's studies, insists on an economic program couched strictly in a Marxist-Leninist vein. His position is that cozying up to the right will garner no extra votes but could, on the other hand, put off a considerable number of traditional voters.

Their opponents, who have rallied around Zyuganov, believe that the program must be realistic and undogmatic, must not intimidate the people, and must be acceptable to the West.

It was planned that the economic manifesto be published no later than the beginning of May. However, it has not proved possible to reach a compromise between the groups to date. Perhaps, as quite often happens in such cases, Lukyanov, who has, as usual, proposed an ingenious option, will resolve the clash: namely by drawing up a two-part program containing a minimum program (for an indefinite transitional period), which would essentially preserve the existing state of affairs in the economy, and a maximum program, which proclaims the building of an ideal socialist society in the future.

Consideration of the possibility of impeachment in advance of the presidential elections is evidence of rare prudence.

The CPRF leaders' lack of clear understanding of where they are to lead the people if they come to power is manifest not only in the muddle over the preparation of program documents. A keen struggle, sometimes assuming curious forms, continues within the party, which is essentially split into several factions. So today, more than two months before the presidential elections, they are seriously considering the possibility of Zyuganov's impeachment.

A. Tuleyev's activity has caused an extremely negative reaction in the middle tier of the party. Kuptsov's supporters, for example, consider that Tuleyev has not only rendered good service to the party but has also "sinned": He did a lot of harm to the chances of Ryzhkov, the party's candidate in the presidential elections in 1991.

The party leaders do not, incidentally, disguise their disagreements over the introduction of the post of vice president or over Tuleyev personally. For example, in an interview given to IZVESTIYA Lukyanov and Seleznev expressed diametrically opposed standpoints on this score. It is curious that members of Zyuganov's group have now joined Tuleyev's adversaries. They think that Tuleyev will inevitably impeach their patron and usurp power. He is exceedingly wily and smart.

It is becoming clear that the problem of Zyuganov's impeachment is of deep interest to Duma Speaker Seleznev. According to available information, he has already ordered his assistants to prepare draft laws which will enable the leader of the lower chamber of parliament to seize power (it is intended to sideline the Federation Council and its chairman, as they work on a nonpermanent basis) in the event of the president's impeachment. And that is precisely why the establishment of the post of vice president goes down so badly with the Duma speaker.

However, Zyuganov's team has gotten wind of these treacherous plans and is today engaged in developing a blocking device [kontrol]. In the event of the CPRF leader winning the election it is planned, among other things, to dissolve the present Duma with maximum speed. The deputies' refusal to confirm a premier could, for example, serve as the pretext for this. In that case the Communists, in whom the voters won't have had time to become disappointed, could again win a majority of seats. And then it will be possible to consider the nomination of speaker.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Russia: Missile Chief Denies 'Major Secret Facility' in Urals

LD1704111396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1049 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 17 (Itar-Tass) — Information actively circulated by the foreign mass media on construction of a major secret facility in the Urals in the interests of missile troops is groundless, emphatically stressed on Wednesday Viktor Yesin, head of the chief staff of Strategic Missile Forces.

"The Russian Strategic Missile Forces do not build, do not expand and do not modernise any installations in

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the Urals," he stressed in an interview with Itar-Tass, commenting on the latest reports about "a secret facility of Russians".

The general also refuted statements that Russians allegedly use "dollars of American taxpayers" to enhance combat capabilities of their missile troops.

American funds, appropriated as aid to implement the START-I Treaty, are used "to order special equipment also at American factories", he noted.

All equipment to dismantle nuclear warheads, produced and paid for by the U.S. is brought to Russia and installed at special bases for missile weapons utilisation. Incidentally, it is used under thorough control of American specialists.

"In actual fact, nobody in Russia can use this money for other ends," Yesin emphasised. "It is not simply deposited on Russian accounts, and it is at least indiscrete to accuse the Russian side of abuses." Besides, the general said American aid is small.

Yesin expressed a supposition that rumours about "a secret facility in the Urals" and "misuse" of American taxpayers' money were necessary for some people in the United States as a playing card in the political gamble on the eve of the November presidential elections.

Russia: Defense Industry Generals Give Yeltsin Terms of Support

MM1604134996 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Military-Industrial Complex Generals Dictate Their Terms to the President. Who's Next?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting between the Russian president and leaders of the military-industrial complex at the "Energomash" science and production association, an event took place that went virtually unnoticed by the mass media. Fifteen "defense industry" generals handed Boris Yeltsin a statement promising him their support in the June presidential elections, on certain firm conditions.

The statement was signed by such leading specialists as Igor Velichko, general designer at the "Academician V.P. Makeyev Design Bureau" Miass State Missile Center (one of the creators of sea-launched strategic missiles for nuclear submarines); Boris Katorgin, general designer at the Academician V.P. Glushko Power Machine Building Science and Production Association, at whose enterprises the most powerful engines for strategic missiles and space rockets were created; Valeriy Tsiplukhin, general director of the "Yantar" Baltic Shipyard in Kaliningrad, where large antisubmarine ships are built, and others.

The "defense industrialists" recognize that the president and the government are beginning, albeit belatedly, to implement an economic policy that accords with Russia's realities. The directors of defense enterprises approve the government's support in the creation of financial and industrial groups in the military-industrial complex, such as "Kompomash" in the space sphere, the creator of the world's best antiaircraft missile systems, among them the S-300V recently sold to the United States, "Antey," and the Russian Aviation Consortium, which is helping to keep our combat and civil aviation at the cutting edge. The leaders of the military-industrial complex, having barely begun to feel the real potential of the market economy, consider a change of power inexpedient and highly dangerous.

At the same time the "military-industrial complex generals" put before Yeltsin some fundamental demands whose fulfillment must begin even before the elections. These conditions include:

— a policy of state protectionism with regard to competitive output on both the domestic and the international market;

— special support for scientific and technical spheres ensuring the competitiveness of Russian output and the country's security;

— observance of the time scale and volume of funding of science-intensive production units within the state order;

— state guarantees of loans and international contracts for high-tech enterprises undergoing conversion.

There is no need to explain what prompted these demands. IZVESTIYA's readers are well acquainted with the still unresolved problems of the country's military-industrial complex and the absence of state support not only for conversion but for export policy. For instance, the celebrated firm "Sukhoy," whose aircraft are considered the best in the world as regards the majority of tactical and technical characteristics and are eagerly bought by countries like India, China, Vietnam, and others, has to pay huge customs and export dues and other taxes on every aircraft, which takes away more than 55 percent of the profit.

The editorial office has learned from people who were present when the president was handed the military-industrial complex leaders' statement that Boris Yeltsin not only received them, but promised to settle in full the state's debts to the defense complex, including wage

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debts, and to issue an edict lifting customs and export duties for international space cooperation output.

So the defense enterprises' elite has promised the president votes in exchange for the fulfillment of the demands presented to him.

Russia: Grachev Promises 'In Depth' Army Reform After Elections

LD1604123096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, April 16 (Interfax) — Immediately after the presidential elections in June the command of the Russian Armed Forces will announce a plan for fundamentally reforming the army, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax Tuesday during his inspection tour of the Urals military district.

He said President Boris Yeltsin is familiar with the plan.

"We deliberately did not take the step for a long time primarily because of the financial and economic difficulties experienced by the country," the minister said.

Grachev said Russia inherited from Soviet times what he called second echelon troops, which are especially difficult to reform. "In these circumstances the main task of the armed forces was to build a new Russian army," he said.

"Capable units and formations ready for in depth reform have been set up in practically all military districts," Grachev said.

The reform will affect general control over the armed forces and lead to the formation of territorial command throughout Russia, starting with the Urals, Volga and Siberian military districts, he said.

A new territorial military command should be set up on the basis of the Urals military district covering a vast territory between the Volga and the Urals and having a definite strategic direction, Grachev said. It would have its headquarters in Yekaterinburg.

Grachev accounted his special interest in the Urals to the fact that key types of arms and military hardware in Russia are built there.

Russia: Radioactive Dump Discovered in Moscow Region

LD1604212796 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Video report by A. Dubnov from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today we received an alarming report from the environs of Moscow. The INTERFAX agency, citing the press service of the Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters, reported that a radioactive dump was discovered in Odintsovo district. Our correspondent went to the scene of the incident.

[begin recording] [Correspondent A. Dubnov] The inhabitants of the village of Glazynino in Odintsovo district of Moscow Region have been subject to the danger of radiation for approximately two years now. However, this has only just been discovered. Information about sources of radioactive contamination has been received from a local resident who happened to be in the locality quite by chance with a dosimeter for domestic use. According to information from the radio-chemical protection group that went to the site where the wastes were found, the radiation near the source was emitting from 400 to 1,600 microroentgens per hour, when the norm is 12-15 roentgens per hour. Experts from the operational group testified to the fact that most of the radioactive material was missing. What remained was scattered around the buildings and adjacent forest.

[G. Golitsyn, head of the department of radiation and chemical protection of the civil defense and emergencies' headquarters of the Moscow Region] The children took these graphite rods to draw with, and the adult population took the boxes for tools. To be brief, they took them away all over the area.

[Dubov] And the builders evidently added the radioactive fragments to the concrete mixture. The greatest danger is presented by the dust by which the radionuclides can enter the respiratory tracts. There are 53 houses in the village. The water supply comes from a well fed by ground waters. Karl Natsekin, head of the radiation and chemical safety group, said that most of the radioactive materials have already been removed. The local population has been informed of the danger. There is a guard on duty.

[Golitsyn] Tomorrow decontamination will start and gamma film footage will be taken.

[Dubnov] The source of the waste has not yet been established. Criminal proceedings have been instituted. The Federal Security Service has been called in to join the investigation. [end recording]

Russia: Minister Mikhaylov Interviewed on Nuclear Safety Issues

MM1604143696 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Viktor Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister of atomic energy, by Nadezhda Popova, place

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and date not given: "Yesterday the World Worried About Nuclear Threat, Today Nuclear Safety"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a few days' time (19 and 20 April) the Russian capital will be a focus of discussion for the entire world — the leaders of the so-called "G-7" and Russia will be meeting in Moscow to discuss nuclear safety issues. Taking part in the meeting will be the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and Japan — that is, all the countries currently producing the bulk of nuclear power in the world. Some 80 percent of the world's nuclear reactors are on the territory of the "big eight."

On the eve of this important meeting we asked Viktor Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister of atomic energy, to answer a number of questions.

[Popova] Well, Viktor Nikitovich, what are the main aspects of Russia's position regarding the problem of ensuring nuclear safety?

[Mikhaylov] Russia is currently making unprecedented efforts to ensure the safety of nuclear power. International cooperation in this area is an example of the world community coordinating its efforts to solve problems that are truly vital for mankind. At the current stage of technical progress the questions of strengthening nuclear safety cannot be successfully resolved within national programs alone. We advocate broad international cooperation in the development, production, and operation of new, safe, and economically beneficial nuclear power plants and in the safe management of nuclear waste material. With regard to safety it is particularly important to reject outmoded and essentially confrontational stereotypes of rivalry in the market for world nuclear services, and to jointly embrace partnership. Progress in this direction would be aided by the elaboration of joint plans for safe nuclear reactors in the 21st century.

The process of shaping nuclear legislation is actively under way in our country at the moment. It will include the already adopted laws "On the Utilization of Nuclear Power," "On the Protection of the Environment," "On Environmental Monitoring," and "On The Radiation Safety of the Population." The draft law "On Dealing with Radioactive Waste" is currently before the Russian Federation State Duma.

The nuclear safety convention signed by Russia in Vienna in 1994 came into force on Russian Federation territory this year.

Russia is also taking specific steps to come into line with the Vienna convention on responsibility for nuclear damage. In the very near future our country will be signing this convention, and the corresponding documents needed to begin the process of its ratification will be submitted to the Federation Council. [Mikhaylov ends]

Our Note

Nuclear power is a tried and tested technology which is already making a major contribution to electricity production around the world. According to figures contained in the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] information system on power-generating reactors at the end of 1994, 432 nuclear power stations with a total capacity of approximately 340 gigawatts of electricity are currently in operation in 30 countries. These stations produce around 2,130 terawatt-hours — equivalent to around 17 percent of total world electricity production in 1994.

[Mikhaylov] At the current stage of the implementation of the Nonproliferation Treaty cooperation among the "big eight" in implementing the IAEA's control functions is of great importance. To this end it is necessary to support the agency's activity aimed at strengthening guarantees and at creating and introducing an effective system for revealing possible covert nuclear activity at the early stages of its development — particularly in areas that are of concern from the nonproliferation standpoint.

Russia has taken the most vigorous measures to swiftly concentrate all Soviet nuclear weapons on its territory. In 1996 the last phase of this work will be completed — nuclear arsenals will be withdrawn from Belarus and Ukraine and dismantled. It is in the interests of the "big eight" countries to ensure that the nuclear weapons held by all nuclear countries are concentrated solely within their own territory. In this connection NATO's eastward expansion with nuclear weapons is of natural concern.

Furthermore, the processes of nuclear disarmament, which currently and rightly occupy one of the main places in the system of international relations, face us with another important problem — the economically and environmentally justified utilization for civilian purposes of the material produced as a result of the dismantling of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament will become irreversible when and only when all nuclear material obtained in the process of conversion is used in peaceful nuclear activity for the good of all mankind.... Russia has unilaterally taken an unprecedented step by announcing the recycling of 500 tonnes of highly enriched weapons-grade uranium surplus to requirements as far as national defense is concerned, and the production from it of fuel for nuclear power stations. [Mikhaylov ends]

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Our Note

Many countries have decided to keep spent fuel in storage facilities for around 50 years with a view to preparing for its final burial in deep rock deposits. Russia, Britain, France, and Japan have decided to process the fuel in order to make use of the uranium and plutonium contained within it. This also reduces the amount of waste needing to be buried.

[Popova] Viktor Nikitovich, the issue of the Chernobyl nuclear power station will, of course, be raised at the Moscow nuclear safety summit. The very word "Chernobyl" is still upsetting, particularly since certain publications have reported that there are allegedly cracks in the Chernobyl sarcophagus. What is actually happening to the sarcophagus? And what will the fate of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] be?

[Mikhaylov] In the Canadian city of Ottawa 20 December last year representatives of Ukraine and Canada signed a memorandum of mutual understanding in respect of the closure of the Chernobyl AES. Under the document Ukraine is counting on receiving both aid and loans to decommission power units at the Chernobyl AES and to modernize the republic's power generation sector in order to make up for the power produced by the Chernobyl AES, which comes to around 6 percent of Ukrainian electricity production. All kinds of specific work whose completion makes it possible to avert any repetition of a Chernobyl- style accident was carried out on Chernobyl AES power units, and at other AES's with pressure-tube-type reactors in the USSR in the period between 1986 and 1991. [Mikhaylov ends]

Our Note

There have only been two major accidents at civil nuclear power stations around the world — at Three Mile Island (United States) in 1979 and at the Chernobyl AES in 1986. In the American case a considerable amount of the fuel in the reactor melted, but all the radioactive material was successfully contained within the reactor building. The protective containment structure stopped the radioactivity from spreading. And there were no significant discharges into the environment. The Chernobyl accident led to radioactive contamination not only of the area immediately adjoining the AES but also of territory beyond the USSR. In particular, significant areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia were contaminated to such an extent that the authorities imposed restrictions on the consumption of foodstuffs produced in those areas. And they even resettled around 140,000 people to new homes.

[Mikhaylov] As for the sarcophagus, it is carefully monitored by both the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy and by the Kurchatov Institute. The sarcophagus is in good condition — no cracks have been discovered in it. It is expected to be good for 25-30 years.

Following the 1986 Chernobyl accident and taking account of its specific features a whole number of upgrades were introduced at all power units with high-power pressure-tube reactors — a reduction in the positive steam coefficient [polozhitelnyy parovoy koeffitsiyent], the modernization of the design of the control rods, the introduction of highly responsive accident protection systems, the establishment of a reactivity safety margin [zapas reaktivnosti], intensified monitoring of metal [condition], corrections to operating documents, and the prevention of the unsanctioned disabling of emergency protection systems.

The problems faced by AES's with high-power pressure-tube reactors are not specific. As with Western nuclear power stations of the same age, the solution lies in bringing their safety standards up to the standards of tighter present-day demands or introducing compensatory measures. The conclusions of international studies coincide: No technical reasons have currently been discovered for closing down nuclear power stations before the end of their design life — the shortcomings of high-power pressure-tube reactors that have been brought to light are similar to the shortcomings of Western reactors built to the old standards, and none of them is technically insoluble.

For Ukraine, in whose power generation system the Chernobyl AES does not play such an important role, the question of closing down this AES has more social aspects and is a subject for negotiation on the Western aid needed. And, finally, given the fact that there are no scientific or technical grounds for the premature closure of power units at the Chernobyl AES and that it will result in losses running into tens of millions of dollars for Ukraine, full responsibility for providing compensation for this damage should be split between the parties to this purely political solution. In determining the sources of funding for the aforementioned measures, Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy enterprises could provide assistance to Ukraine in carrying out planning and a number of other types of work in the process of decommissioning the AES power units.

[Popova] Viktor Nikitovich, are there any nuclear power stations in Russia that have been decommissioned, and please tell us, if you can, about new-generation power stations.

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[Mikhaylov] Four power units in the Russian Federation have been shut down after having reached the end of their life — Units 1 and 2 at the Beloyarsk AES and Units 1 and 2 at the Novovoronezhskiy AES. They are currently being prepared for decommissioning and have already been made nuclear-safe. Preparations are under way for the partial dismantling of their equipment. A considerable number of Russia's current AES power units are nearing the end of their design life. In the period up to 2010 Russia will have to decommission 18 power units. I would note that the decommissioning of AES's is a process that takes many years and requires the power units to go through a number of stages of decontamination and dismantling work. The hold-up [as per jp's nuke ref doc, so ask him!] of a power unit once the spent fuel has been removed to reduce the level of radioactivity in equipment and structures as a result of natural radionuclide decay can take a few decades, depending on unit type and capacity. Specialists reckon that expenditure on AES decommissioning comes to 8-12 percent of the construction cost.

As for new-generation enhanced-safety power stations, the Russian Federation program for the development of nuclear power generation is geared to the development of new-generation enhanced-safety power units to replace decommissioned AES capacity from the year 2000 on.

Over the past three decades around 6,000 reactor-years of experience of the operation of nuclear power stations has been built up around the world. On this basis improved power unit structures that are safer, more economical, and more reliable than their current counterparts have been and are being developed. These designs are being developed on the basis of improved safety concepts that include, apart from anything else, features which give operators more time to take measures to ensure safety and make for greater protection against any possible discharge of radioactivity into the environment.

Great attention is being paid to making the stations simpler from the operational, inspection, technical servicing, and overhaul standpoint, thereby enhancing their overall economic efficiency. In the event of breakdown or accident, the control, monitoring, and protection systems will return the power unit to its normal status or to safe idling status [sostoyaniye bezopasnogo ostanova] without the need for operator intervention.

It is enormously important to pool resources and experience on an international scale in developing new-generation reactors. The IAEA has a great role to play in this context as an international forum for the exchange of scientific and technical information.

The Russian Federation sees the following as priority projects for the construction of new-generation AES's: a reactor with the main power unit coupled to [reaktornaya ustanovka s privyazkoy golovnogo bloka energobloka k] the Sosnovyy Bor site (in Leningrad Oblast); a reactor with the main power unit coupled to the Novovoronezhskiy AES site.

Fast-breeder reactors (the BN-800) designed to produce electricity and low-level heat, to burn weapons-grade plutonium, and to produce isotope products are seen as promising projects.

[Popova] Viktor Nikitovich, are there currently any international projects for developing new reactor types?

[Mikhaylov] Yes, both our country and the United States, France, and Germany are working on such projects. Good examples of this cooperation are the plans for a European pressurized-water reactor (France and Germany), a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (Russia, the United States), and fast-breeder reactors (Russia, Japan). One of the main problems of implementing these and other similar projects is their high cost which is connected with the introduction of additional safety systems in accordance with the new approaches.

[Popova] Could you tell possibly us a little about international nuclear safety centers, especially since our country and the United States have already agreed between themselves on the creation of such a center, have they not?

[Mikhaylov] Indeed, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy and the U.S. Energy Department have already agreed to begin cooperation this year, 1996, in the fulfillment of the following projects:

— the development of a nuclear safety data base including information on the specifics of the design of each nuclear power station and on reactor safety ratings;

— the creation of a data base on the characteristics of materials for ensuring safety analysis taking into account serious accidents and accident planning;

— the elaboration of a methodology of design and theoretical analysis and the adaptation of existing computer codes and analytical models to the analysis of experiments and the conducting of safety assessments.

[Popova] Viktor Nikitovich, the question of creating regional storage facilities for radioactive waste is extremely urgent. What can you tell us about that?

[Mikhaylov] The problem of the management of radioactive waste is of extreme concern to the world community. The experience and practice of the international

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legal mechanisms for the regulation of production and scientific activity in the sphere of nuclear science, technology, techniques, and industry highlights the urgent need to complete the elaboration, conclusion, and implementation of the Convention on the Safe Management of Radioactive Waste.

The world community and, above all, states with a developed nuclear power industry realized the need to examine the question of the joint creation of regional radioactive waste storage facilities with the broad scientific and financial input of all interested countries.

In this context we believe that Russia's proposal to regard the following two projects as international is extremely timely and exceptionally important:

— the creation in the south of the Novaya Zemlya archipelago of an experimental-industrial installation for the burial of radioactive waste and the creation of the Northwest Regional Center for the conditioning and burial of radioactive waste based on the Leningrad Radon specialized combine.

The regional center, which is currently being created near the city of Sosnovyy Bor in Leningrad Oblast, is intended for the collection, conditioning, encasement, and burial of radioactive waste produced by industrial, scientific, and medical organizations.

[Popova] Viktor Nikitovich, could you tell us about cooperation with foreign countries in dealing with weapons-grade plutonium?

[Mikhaylov] In January 1995 the first session of the group of Russian and U.S. experts on dealing with weapons-grade plutonium was held at Los Alamos in the United States. The Russian and U.S. experts agreed to carry out the joint study of various options for the long-term management of weapons-grade plutonium. A joint coordinating committee has now been formed and the membership of the working groups has been identified. The Russian and U.S. experts agreed to carry out the joint study of various options for the long-term management of weapons-grade plutonium which envisage the use of plutonium in light water reactors and fast-breeder reactors as well as its storage, burial in geological formations, and so forth.

In addition to the United States Russia is also cooperating with the FRG, Canada, and France in dealing with plutonium.

The cooperation with France will result in the elaboration of a concept which will bring considerably nearer the day when plutonium produced from the dismantling of nuclear weapons will be reused [povtornoye ispolzovaniye] in Russia. The plutonium will be reused during the construction in Russia of an experimental enterprise for the reprocessing of weapons-grade plutonium into MOX [mixed uranium and plutonium] fuel with a productivity of 1,300 kg of plutonium a year. This program is among the promising areas of further cooperation and the subject of a bilateral agreement between Russia and France.

[Popova] Finally, tell us about the so-called circulation of nuclear materials.

[Mikhaylov] An analysis of recently exposed cases of the illegal circulation of radioactive substances shows that in all instances these were not nuclear materials suitable for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Mainly these were natural uranium and uranium dioxide with 2-4 percent uranium-235 enrichment(in a number of cases with a higher level of enrichment). Some of this was destined to be smuggled out of Russia.

I would note that installations belonging to Russia's nuclear complex have always had and still have a sophisticated and rigorous system of accounting, storage, and protection of nuclear weapons and their components which meets the IAEA requirements and which is constantly being upgraded in the light of the situation as it develops at the facility in question and in the country as a whole.

Russia advocates the expansion of international interaction to prevent the illegal circulation of nuclear materials and the increased mutual exchange of information. An analysis of the information available to the relevant organizations enables the conclusion to be drawn that on Russian territory at the moment there are no organized criminal groupings specializing solely in this area. So far, neither the Russian nor the foreign representatives of the relevant organizations and departments have managed to identify a single real purchaser of nuclear materials. Nor have there been any cases in which the state structures of a "threshold country" have shown any interest in nuclear materials.

Russian criminal law has four articles which envisage liability for the unlawful handling of radioactive substances. A special government commission has been created which examines problems pertaining to the nuclear weapons complex. The "Russian Federation State Targeted Program for the Creation and Provision of Physical Protection Systems for Installations in the Nuclear Weapons Complex, the Nuclear Industry, Power Engineering, and Science of the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy and Installations of the Russian Defense Ministry" has been elaborated and is being implemented: This program envisages measures to improve the physical protection of nuclear facilities. Legislative acts have either been adopted or are currently being

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elaborated to regulate the following: a) the procedure for the accounting, monitoring, storage, and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, the handling of nuclear weapons and their components, and ensuring their security during production, storage, and transport; b) licensing the procedure for authorization to work with nuclear materials and the functioning of nuclear facilities as well as their movement, transport, and trade; c) monitoring by the law enforcement organs and prosecutor's office of the execution of the existing legislation in this sphere. [end of interview]

The Moscow nuclear safety summit is an important event for the whole world community. A tremendous amount of work has been done within the framework of the preparation for the meeting. On 28 December 1995 the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy and the Russian Academy of Sciences adopted a joint decision which created the interdepartmental working party's scientific support group chaired by Ye. Velikhov. The interdepartmental working party has held six sessions during which, and in accordance with proposals from all the relevant departments and the scientific support group, it discussed and did further work on the following documents: the Russian Federation President's draft speech, briefing materials on Russian AES's, materals on nuclear safety and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, reference materials for possible use at bilateral meetings with leaders of the G-7 countries, and so forth.

The Russian Federation President's speech has already been translated into English. The heads of the delegations will thus receive a copy of the Russian president's speech in English too.

On the instructions of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, a great deal of work has been done for the organization and opening of a Russian-U.S. joint exhibition on the topic of nuclear safety and the monitoring and accounting of nuclear materials. The French side has also expressed a desire to participate in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be staged in the Hall of Columns which will also house the Moscow summit's international press center...

Russia: Nuclear Reactors With New Safety Device Developed

LD1604151696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Interfax) — Russia is currently developing two new reactors which will meet the most stringent international safety standards, Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Lev Ryabov told Interfax Tuesday.

A repeat of the Chernobyl disaster is, further, impossible at Russia's current nuclear power plants, he said, as all Chernobyl-type RBMK reactors have been modernized, he said.

The new VVER reactors will run on ordinary water, and will have power capacities of 1,000 and 640 megawatts, he said. They should be completed within the next 2 years, after which they will become the basis of Russian nuclear energy for the next 15-20 years and will be produced for export.

A new safety method has been discovered in developing the reactors, Ryabov said. Even if one of the new reactors fully de-energizes and the active accident defense system malfunctions, the new reactors are capable of stabilizing the situation with "passive methods without human aid," he said.

The new safety system excludes the possibility of meltdown in the event of a serious accident in the reactor's active zone and prevents the threat to the reactor block.

"I should repeat: the safety system will work independently, which will allow us to avoid human error in crisis situations," he said. The Atomic Energy Ministry "is doing everything to avoid another situation even vaguely reminiscent of Chernobyl," Ryabov said. Scientists are even guarding against accidents which are theoretically impossible, he said.

The 640-megawatt reactor will go to Sosnov Boru at the Leningrad nuclear power plant, he said. Another three such blocks will take the place of aged RBMK reactors at the Kolsk plant.

The other new reactor will be set up on 6- and 7-meter energy blocks at the Novovoronezh nuclear power plant.

The development of a multi-purpose MKR reactor, based on the old RBMK reactors, is also planned for completion in the next three years, Ryabov said. The new MKRs may soon replace the RBMKs at the Smolensk and Kursk nuclear power plants.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Duma Approves Law on Human Rights Commissioner

LD1704104496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1005 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalia Panshina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 17 (ITAR-TASS) — The federal constitutional law "On human rights commissioner" was approved, on the whole, by

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the State Duma today. It was first submitted for the consideration of the parliament in July 1994. Members of the previous Duma did not finish the work on the document, and it broke all records in the lawmaking practices of Russia by the duration of the discussion. It is only on the ninth voting that it got the support of two thirds of Duma members, which is necessary for a constitutional law to be adopted. 303 Duma members voted for it, two against, and one abstained from voting.

The parliamentary group of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Russian Regions group blocked the adoption of the law until the last moment. The Russian Regions members did not like the procedure for electing a human rights commission, which gives some advantages to large parliamentary groups. Consensus was reached only after an amendment, under which each candidate to this post should get two thirds of votes to be entered on the list for secret ballot, was approved after second reading. The human rights commissioner will be elected from among those candidates also by two thirds of votes. Now the law should be approved by the Federation Council.

Taking into account the long and difficult procedure for the adoption of the law by the State Duma, one may assume that after it comes into force, it will take a lot of time to elect a human rights commissioner.

The human rights commissioner will not be all-powerful. Neither will he become a substitute to the state bodies, whose task is to ensure the protection and restoration of human rights and freedoms. However, after he receives a complaint, he will have the right to make inquiries and receive from state bodies any information and documents, needed for considering the case, will be able to inspect the work of state bodies by himself or together with corresponding institutions, and will have to freely enter the offices of senior officials of any level.

In this connection the Duma adopted as well federal laws on making changes and amendments in the Criminal and Civil Codes.

Russia: Duma Debating Land Law Reform Enactments

MM1604141596 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Raisa Gubanova and Tamara Lezhnina under the "In the State Duma" rubric: "Disputes About Land Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a routine sitting Wednesday 10 April, State Duma deputies gave the draft federal law "Specific Features of the Implementation of the Citizens' Constitutional Rights to Land" its first reading. This document was drawn up by the Committee for Agrarian Questions of the lower chamber of parliament in accordance with the State Duma decree adopted 13 March in connection with the publication of the famous edict of the president bearing an almost identical title.

The draft law is aimed at normalizing the ownership, use, and management of land. It envisages the right of Russian citizens to own plots of land and to enjoy permanent (indefinite) or fixed-term use of such plots or hold them in lifetime heritable ownership or on lease. As far as foreigners and stateless persons are concerned, then they may lease land.

The document confirms the right of Russians to private ownership of plots of land to run their own personal subsidiary farms and for the purposes of horticulture, housing, and the construction of dachas and garages. They can sell them, mortgage them, give them away as gifts, or exchange them, as well as lease them, invest them as incorporation (share) capital, or do other deals with them, as long as the targeted use of the land is not changed.

It has been laid down that private farmers are granted land on the basis of the right to lifetime heritable ownership or on lease. The right to own plots of land as peasant (private) farms, granted before the enactment of the present law, is retained.

It has been prescribed that citizens who have gained ownership of a land share may invest it as incorporation (share) capital of newly created agricultural organizations or use it to run a peasant farm, or expand a personal subsidiary farm. It is proposed that the total number of land shares which a shareholder in an agricultural organization can hold should be determined by the laws of Russian Federation components and the charters of the agricultural organizations.

Deputies from the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] and the LDPR [Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia], and the deputies' groups of the Agrarians, "People's Power," and "Russian Regions" supported the concept of the draft law in their speeches. But the "Yabloko" and "Russia Is Our Home" factions expressed their disagreement with it.

Aleksey Chernyshev, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Agrarian Questions, announced at a routine sitting of the Agrarian Deputies' Group that work on the preparation of the draft Russian Federation Land Code for the next parliamentary hearing has been completed.

This document can be expected to generate a mixed response among the deputies. It does not envisage

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the free purchase, sale, or mortgaging of agricultural land. As for land shares, the circulation of these is envisaged within farms. Citizens who have a land share in farming associations and societies, or production and consumer cooperatives, will be issued with a document (certificate) by the agricultural organization, confirming the number and value of their land shares.

In accordance with the draft law, it will be possible to obtain an actual land plot (in the locality) in order to organize a peasant (private) farm or join another peasant (private) farm, and to expand a personal subsidiary farm, taking the requirements of the rational organization of territory and land use into account.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Chechens Threaten Radioactive Contamination of Moscow

AU1604162296 Paris AFP in English 1557 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Russia, April 16 (AFP) — A Chechen rebel leader on Tuesday [16 April] renewed a threat to contaminate Moscow with radioactive material by exploding waste containers.

Aslambek Abdukhadyev told AFP in the Chechen capital that "several containers" had been planted in Moscow.

The Chechens have made this threat several times since Russian troops entered the southern republic in December 1994 to crush an secessionist movement.

A container with slightly radioactive material was discovered in a Moscow park in November 1995.

Abdukhadyev said Russian planes had again bombed several villages on Tuesday, killing civilians and children.

"We can no longer bear to look at the tears of our people," he said. "We are forced to take appropriate action...there are already several radioactive containers in Moscow. We can put in more. We will explode them all."

A summit on nuclear safety organised by the Group of Seven wealthiest industrial nations with Russian and Ukrainian participation is scheduled to be held in Moscow on Friday and Saturday.

Russia: Yeltsin Ready for 'Historic Compromise' on Chechnya

LD1604152496 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Apr 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is on a working visit to Krasnodar Territory.

[Correspondent A. Pishchayev] The Kuban Cossacks have a saying: We don't believe in miracles, they don't happen here, they happen in Moscow. But today, miracles came true in Kuban, in the village of Novomyshastovskaya, at the Rossiya farm. The Russian president received a cordial welcome from the rural workers of this large agricultural enterprise. In the towns, where at times there was opposition, albeit inconsiderable, there was no presentation of red calico. Here the people of the village do not especially complain about their lives or abuse the authorities. After all, what do they have to complain about? The farm is a wealthy one, with its own processing complex. Here there are grain crops, vegetables, and livestock produce. Nevertheless, they have their problems, but who doesn't?

But this is where the miracle begins. Probably for the first time, on a walkabout, the president of the country signed a decree solving the most irksome problems of the countryside — on support for Russia's agro-industrial complex. The main thing about it is that the state is granting the rural goods producers a deferment on its payments against debts, tariffs for the use of electricity are reduced by 50 percent, and peasant farmers and private farms are being guaranteed equipment. At the same time, the state is granting credit for the acquisition of land to rural workers irrespective of the type of work to the sum of up to 800 billion rubles.

And there was one other gift, this time to the villagers. Boris Yeltsin allocated from the presidential fund 3 billion rubles for the construction of the Cathedral of the Holy Archangel, as well as a new bus for children for their holidays to Anapa, and a computer class for the school:

[begin Yeltsin recording] Now, before the month of June, foreign investments in the Russian Federation have been sharply reduced. Why? Because they are waiting to see who will be president on 16 June. But they don't want to put their stakes on any of them. Therefore, you realize that if there is to be calm and investment from abroad, you should vote the way you are supposed to, the way you put it on your slogans. [laughter and applause] [end recording]

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Today President Yeltsin also spoke about the situation in Chechnya.

[begin Yeltsin recording] My position is as follows: Russia is united and undivided. In our country, there must be no territory where criminal and terrorist forces hold sway. I am in favor of a peaceful Chechen republic, free from the criminal. All kinds of means, including force, have been used to achieve this objective. The result of the pressure of force is that Dudayev's main forces have been seriously undermined. This is due to the Russian servicemen.

But the problem cannot be solved by coercive methods alone. We are prepared for a truly historic compromise, both on the question of the independence of the Chechen Republic within Russia, and on guarantees for an end to the fighting. But I tell you frankly: those who want to use our goodwill to regroup their forces and to prepare new terrorist actions are mistaken. Attacks and shelling on the part of the irreconcilable opposition will meet with adequate resistance. If there is good will — and there is, on our side — we will find a solution to all problems. I know it is not only the majority of the Chechen people who need peace in this republic. You and all of Russia need it. That is why I consider a solution to this problem one of my main tasks. [end recording] [video shows Yeltsin being met with traditional bread-and-salt greeting by people in national costume and crowd of children; Yeltsin acknowledging cheers of crowd; talking to newsmen surrounded by his entourage and onlookers; approaching rostrum and addressing crowd, signing book, shaking hands]

Russia: Yeltsin Warns Against Immediate Withdrawal from Chechnya

LD1704112596 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Boris Yeltsin visited the Budennovsk hospital in Stavropol Territory. He spoke about last summer's hostage crisis, and condemned Chechen terrorism.

Yeltsin said "Every time we have taken steps towards peace, pro-Dudayev extremists have once again steered events on to military lines. That is what happened last year after Budennovsk. Peace talks were wrecked then through the villainous attempt on the life of the commander of the group of federal troops, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Romanov. That is what happened at the beginning of this year, I mean Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye. This is what is happening now, as well. All this convinces one again and again that it is impossible to settle the conflict through force alone or through talks alone.

Of course, it would be good to withdraw the federal troops from Chechnya fully and immediately but will this bring peace any closer? I think that the people of Budennovsk know better than many the answers to these questions. The consequence of such a step would inevitably be a sharp exacerbation of the confrontation in Chechen society. Until we create a reliable barrier to the actions of terrorists there won't be a stable peace in the republic. We are in favor of talks but not from a Russian position of weakness."

Russia: Yeltsin Comments on Negotiations With Dudayev

LD1604175996 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Video report by correspondents in Krasnodar, including recordings of Yeltsin remarks — from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent, over video of President Yeltsin arriving at town square, surrounded by military and townsfolk] A housing estate for Russian servicemen, built by a Turkish firm, using German money, was one of the first places the president visited in Krasnodar. True, the president did not manage to look round the recently commissioned estate properly or make an assessment of how well it had been built. Yeltsin spent almost an hour with townsfolk and military cossacks gathered on the square.

The president's words on this occasion were absolutely to the point. Yeltsin talked to the civilians about wages, to the cossacks about his new decrees supporting the cossack host, and to the military about Chechnya.

Once again, Boris Yeltsin expounded the main points of his peace plan. Yeltsin devoted particular attention on this occasion to the problem of negotiations with Dzhokhar Dudayev.

[Yeltsin] Mediators have now gone to Dudayev. He agrees to conduct such negotiations through mediators. To start with, he said: I want to talk only with Yeltsin. But I don't want to have any negotiations with a bandit.

But through a mediator, that's fine. There is Shaymiyev, Nazarbayev, then there is the king of Morocco, Hassan II. They have agreed to be mediators.

[Correspondent, over video of Cossack carrying table over heads of crowd, Yeltsin conducting cheers, seated at table] The cossacks made a great impression on the president. Three decrees had been specially drawn up for them. The cossacks persuaded the president to sign them straight away, for which purpose a kitchen table and a red stool were brought over from a nearby

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furniture shop. After the signing, the cossacks voiced their support for the president, conducted by the latter himself.

[Cossacks] Grand! Grand! Grand!

[Correspondent, over video of Yeltsin addressing meeting] However, Boris Yeltsin saved his keynote speech for the evening. After all the meetings and trips round Krasnodar, he made an address in the Krasnodar Territory Drama Theater to firmly declare his intention of winning in the presidential elections. Although the text of the presidential speech had changed considerably compared with the original variant, the main theses and the main import of the speech remained. [passage omitted]

In the final analysis, the whole thrust of the presidential speech boiled down to the one thing: Yeltsin's personal responsibility for the fate of reforms. Yeltsin reminded the audience of the lofty qualities an aspiring president must have.

[Yeltsin] The president of Russia must have endurance and patience to support the fragile balance of the supreme bodies of powers. Calm in Russia depends upon this.

The president of Russia must have the will to hold out against pressure from any party or movement. He does not have the right to turn into its puppet.

[Correspondent] The president's main speech, and the other points of his program, were calculated to get the maximum publicity, and the audience for his speech was not restricted to the hall alone. His speech was broadcast out to the square through special loudspeakers.

Alim Yusupov, Sergey Rebrov, Valeriy Ivanov, NTV Television, from Krasnodar.

Russia: Dudayev Interviewed on Peace Talks, Situation

LD1604123696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Interfax) — Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev in a telephone interview with Interfax Monday evening spoke in favor of peace talks with Moscow through mediators. However, he intends to offer the role of go-between to a party outside the former Soviet Union, such as Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

Dudayev did not rule out the possibility of Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev joining the process, saying he deeply respects both leaders.

According to him, the prime minister of Malaysia and the king of Jordan are also ready to act as mediators.

If mediators are invited from countries outside the former Soviet Union, Dudayev believes the Chechen conflict will cease to be Russia's internal affair.

"The Russian-Chechen war cannot be an internal affair of Russia for the simple reason that the Chechen republic-Ichkeria is not bound by any agreement with the Russian Federation," he stressed. Besides, foreign mediators will demand that Moscow observe any understandings reached. "Neither Nazarbayev, nor Shaymiyev are capable of forcing the Russian side to stand by its commitments," he said emphasizing, however, that in the final account the problem must be resolved by the Russian president.

Dudayev named the withdrawal of troops from Chechnya as the chief and necessary condition for the beginning of talks. After that a referendum should be held in which "the nation itself should say whether it wants to live in an independent Chechen republic or within Russia."

He claimed that hostilities in Chechnya have intensified since President Boris Yeltsin announced his peace plan. "Aviation and artillery are used on a wider scale," he said. According to Dudayev, there is fighting along the entire line of confrontation from Bamut in the west to Dargo in the east of the republic.

Dudayev believes he is supported by almost the entire population of the republic. "If we had more arms, probably seven-year-old children would be fighting too," he said adding his formations have no planes, artillery or armored vehicles. Still, he said, Chechen formations are planning to switch from defense to offensive operations.

Asked about the truthfulness of Russian military reports of plans of Chechen attacks on Groznyy and other towns in the near future Dudayev said: "Why attack? Groznyy is our city. We control everything here. In March we had a rehearsal. It will take us no more than two hours to capture Groznyy."

On the headquarters of Chechen formations he said they are located throughout Chechnya and even outside its boundaries. "I am on the move, and at the acutest moments I am there where it is necessary," he said.

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Russia: Justice Minister: No Legal Obstacles for Talks With Dudayev

LD1704121796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Solodova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 17 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev believes there are no legal obstacles for peace talks with wanted Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev as his guilt or innocence can be proved only by court.

Kovalev even hinted that charges against Dudayev can be dropped altogether "in connection with a change in circumstances".

However, the minister told a press conference on Wednesday that at present Dudayev remains "a subject of criminal law" as he was charged with several crimes.

A warrant to arrest Dudayev was issued in February 1995. The separatist leader was charged with four crimes, including treason which in itself is enough to get a death sentence.

Kovalev said it was necessary to distinguish between Chechen "separatists" and "terrorists". The former should be talked to, while the latter must be ordered to surrender arms and eliminated in case of resistance.

"With the separatists it is possible and necessary to hold a political dialogue as it is impossible to persecute for a different point of view. The terrorists should be ordered to lay down arms and eliminated in case of a rejection. With terrorists the talks can be only tactical and it is possible to ease their responsibility only in case of voluntary arms surrender", the minister said.

Russia: Tatarstan's Khakimov Discusses Chechen Peace Settlement

MK1704085996 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 3

[Interview with Rafail Khakimov, political adviser to President Shaymiyev of Tatarstan, by Vera Postnova; place and date not given: "Tataria Does Not Approve of Dudayev's Methods. Shaymiyev's Adviser Believes It Is Important To Avoid Conflicts Within Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has met with Rafail Khakimov, state adviser on political matters to the Tatarstan president. This expert on problems of federalism is considered to be of one the most independent and influential figures in Mintimer Shaymiyev's inner circle. He was directly involved in preparing Shaymiyev's peace plan for Chechnya; many propositions of this plan were borrowed by Boris Yeltsin for his statement [on the Chechen issue]. Rafail Khakimov advocates full freedom for Chechnya. Recently, as a representative of Tataria's president, he visited Chechnya, where he met with the Ichkerian president's inner circle.

[Postnova] Rafail Sibgatovich, what kind of national policy does Russia need?

[Khakimov] Historically, Russia is the motherland to many peoples, a land where their culture evolves and where their identify is manifested. Such peoples as, say, Chechens or Tatars have nowhere to go. The nationality problem for them is oftentimes a question of biological survival. Today, the people of Chechnya have been placed in such a situation. Russia should assume the European Charter for National Minorities as a legislative basis. If the State Duma adopted such a law, it would remove 90 percent of all problems of indigenous peoples. But the Duma is hardly likely to do this in the foreseeable future. There is also the government. But top government officials have neither the understanding of the problems involved nor the political will to address them. Neither do they have the funds, although we do pay taxes. The Nationalities Ministry does not deal with, say, Tatarstan: Kazan has in effect assumed responsibility for pursuing a nationalities policy with respect to Tatars. True, we also have no money. Tatars are an active people and those living outside of the republic fend for themselves. They open schools, publish newspapers, and so forth.

[Postnova] You were an ideologue of the Tatar national movement...

[Khakimov] That's right. And I am still considered to be a radical nationalist. But I consider all the people living in Tataria to be one nation. The Declaration on Sovereignty and the Constitution of the Republic say that we are a multiethnic, multicultural society. None of the ethnic groups have an exclusive position. Although, formally speaking, Tatars and Russians constitute the basis of the state. But we invariably stress that the state safeguards the interests of other ethnic groups also.

[Postnova] You are not concerned about Russia's affairs?

[Khakimov] No. I protect the interests of Tataria. It is important to us, however, that there should be no conflicts in Russia or the CIS.

[Postnova] After the signing of the treaty with Russia the Tatarstan president said: "We shall not stop at this." Will you go further or will Tataria stay in the Russian Federation?

[Khakimov] Today our sovereignty has many transitional features. Of course, there are also elements that

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set us apart from other Federation components. Our laws have priority on our territory. If we adopt a law on, say, private ownership, the corresponding Russian law becomes void. To be sure, there are also some limitations: defense, customs, and hard currency. At this stage, however, people should be allowed to calm down or we shall be called separatists again.

[Postnova] Like the Chechens?

[Khakimov] There was a point when Russian state pundits wanted to bring troops into Tataria. I consider the Chechens' fight for independence absolutely legitimate. But we do not accept Dudayev's methods and we shall do everything to bring about an end to the war in Chechnya. President Yeltsin assumed President Shaymiyev's program as a basis, but missed one very important point: In Shaymiyev's program Federation components figure as guarantors. An Arab sheik would be quite fit as a go-between, if it was only a matter of a go-between. Today Russia regards the conflict in Chechnya as an internal one and therefore will not allow any outside peacemaking. We discussed the possibility of Federation components' acting as guarantors both with Moscow and Harvard experts. If 10 large economic regions in Russia sign an agreement with Yeltsin that they will act as guarantors, that will be serious. The Chechen problem cannot be resolved without defining Chechnya's status, by sleeping on the issue.

[Postnova] The question of granting Chechnya full freedom was not discussed in the Hague?

[Khakimov] No. Today we should look for solutions that will formally preserve Russia's integrity while in effect giving Chechnya full freedom.

[Postnova] What conditions did Dudayev's representative bring to the Hague?

[Khakimov] An independent state! Negotiations are to be conducted only with the Russian Foreign Ministry and only about full independence. Dudayev has no other proposals to make.

Russia: Duma Deputy Cited on Consultations for Chechen Settlement

LD1604185496 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Moscow today a meeting was held of the state commission for a peaceful settlement in Chechnya. The participants in the meeting were unable to finally agree and confirm a plan for talks with Dudayev. Vladimir Zorin, a member of the commission and a state Duma deputy, in an interview for our radio station explained afterward that the Dudayev side is not prepared for talks.

[begin Zorin recording] At present we have not received an official, commensurate position from our awaited partner in the talks, that is from Dzhokar Dudayev. Our position has been stated. It has been set out. Unfortunately, we have not yet received a response to this initiative. We have our viewpoint. Proposals are coming in to the commission at present. If I can put it like this: the ball is now in Dudayev's court.

However, it must be said that consultations — I have called them consultations and not talks — are going on at virtually all levels, starting from elders and field commanders and ending with high-level commanders. [end recording]

Russia: Chechnya Peace Commission Convenes in Moscow

LD1604150096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 16 (Interfax) — The Russian State Commission on a peace settlement in Chechnya chaired by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin convened in Russia's government building on Tuesday afternoon.

Members of the State Commission will consider principles of allocation and expenditure of funds aimed at restoration of Chechnya's economy and social sphere.

Addressing the commission with a report, Russia's Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov said that a total of 6.8 trillion rubles from all financing sources, primarily from the federal budget were allocated for the restoration works in Chechnya in 1995.

About 16.2 trillion rubles and $1 billion are supposed to be allotted for restoration works in Chechnya in 1996, he said.

About 10.2 trillion rubles will be channeled from the budget and the remaining funds will be attracted from suprabudget sources, according to Petrov.

Russia's Security Council Chairman Oleg Lobov, presidential aide on national security Yuriy Baturin and member of the presidential council Emil Pain are attending the session of the commission.

Russia: Chechen Authorities Note Increased Radio Traffic by Gunmen

LD1704121996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By Mikhail Shvetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, April 17 (Itar-Tass) — Chechen power-wielding structures record

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stepped-up actions by rebels while an assembly of Chechen peoples to be held on April 20 approaches.

The press centre of the Chechen Interior Ministry told Itar-Tass on Wednesday that gunmen in Groznyy stepped up their radio talks, especially at nighttime with groups of illegal armed detachments staying in city suburbs.

Police also noticed the increased number of mining of various areas in the city, especially close to places of deployment and routes of movements of federal troops. Power-wielding structures receive information on intentions of rebels to blackmail authorities in localities.

The press centre of the Temporary Administration of the Russian Interior Ministry in Chechnya reports that 13 crimes were recorded in the republic over the past 24 hours, including two murders, two armed assaults and thefts.

Police found the bodies of three women with gunshot wounds at a private house in the Staropromyslovskiy district of Groznyy. The case is being investigated.

Last night, gunmen fired with underbarrel grenade launchers at posts of commandant's areas in the Leninskiy and Oktyabrskiy districts. There are no casualties among police.

As a result of joint patrolling of Groznyy streets by federal troops and Chechen police, eight people were detained on suspicion of being members of illegal armed detachments. They are being questioned.

Russia: Grachev Visits Urals Military Units

LD1604215996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2050 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Video report from Yekaterinburg by correspondent V. Poleyko — from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is continuing his working visit to the military units stationed in the Urals.

[Poleyko] [Video shows Grachev laying flowers at a monument, observing the work of soldiers from the chemical defense brigade, looking around barracks and official buildings] The defense minister started his day in Yekaterinburg by laying flowers at the foot of the monument to international servicemen. After this, Pavel Grachev and those accompanying him left for Verkhnyaya Pyshma. Here they checked the combat readiness of the chemical defense brigade which ensures the safety of nuclear power stations in the region.

On the whole, the army general was pleased with the training of the personnel, the state of combat equipment, and the service and living conditions of soldiers and officers. At the same time, he quite strictly reprimanded the commander of the unit. [video shows Grachev attending political studies classes, speaking to servicemen]

Then the ministerial motorcade arrived in another subdivision of the Urals Military District. The visit of the army general found the men at their political studies classes. There the soldiers were studying the fundamentals of the constitutional order in Russia. Pavel Grachev said he hopes that the servicemen will gain a comprehensive grasp of the realities of Russian politics and realize the role of the army in making sure that the country's constitutional order is guaranteed.

Russia: Grachev Inspects Urals CW Defense, Infantry Units

MM1604181696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Urals Have Always Been and Still Are a Stronghold. Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev Continues Work With Troops of Urals Military District"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the very start of the trip the defense minister noted in conversation with journalists that the Urals are of immense importance to Russia. Large military-industrial complex plants are concentrated there, along with some very important technical and material resources — some of our main weapons types have been and continue to be produced there. The importance of the Urals is also increased by the fact that measures to create a regional command based on the Urals Military District will soon begin to be implemented. Yekaterinburg will be the location of the main staff of this new territorial formation with a definite strategic thrust.

Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev began his tour of inspection with a visit to a CW defense brigade. The brigade is commanded by Colonel Vladimir Filippov. And I would note that the brigade commander had some tough assignments that day. The inspection of the unit began with a surprise fire alarm in an equipment array. Unfortunately, the alarm caught the servicemen almost unawares....

Another surprise scenario was sprung in the course of the inspection of the equipment storage depot located alongside the CW defense brigade. Captain Grigoriy Timichev, senior specialized electrical equipment engineer, was ordered to bring a warhead station into ac-

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tion. This time the servicemen's actions were more precise and competent. The defense minister thanked Capt. Timichev and his subordinates.

The defense minister then viewed the personnel reception center, the vegetable stores, the officers' quarters, and the barracks. The defense minister was left with a good impression. Above all, he noted that, despite certain shortcomings highlighted in the CW defense brigade, on the whole intensive work is being done here. Particularly in solving the problem of the unit's redeployment. To all intents and purposes the command and the men have through their own efforts revived a military camp that was transferred to the district's troops at the minister's decision following the disbanding of an air defense unit.

After working in the garrison the defense minister visited the motorized rifle division commanded by Major General Boris Sergeyev. Here too the inspection began with scenarios to check the combat readiness of one of the subunits. The motorized riflemen's actions were accurate and decisive. The defense minister continued his familiarization with the division at a training class, where a lesson on the basic principles of Russia's constitutional system was being taught by Lieutenant Colonel Andrey Shchepin, deputy regimental commander for educational work. The defense minister attended the lesson and talked to the men about current problems in the Army.

In conclusion the defense minister delivered a report to the division's officers and presented orders and valuable gifts to a large group of servicemen.

The defense minister's work with the district's troops continues. Army Gen. Pavel Grachev intends to fly to the Chebarkul Garrison 17 April.

Russia: Local Election Results in Sverdlovsk Region Announced

LD1704085696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the elections to the Legislative Assembly of the Sverdlovsk Region have now been announced. Fewer than one third of all voters went to the polls, mainly middle-aged and older people. Analysts believe this happened because the elections were held on Easter Day. Of those who went to the polls, 35 percent voted for the Transformation of the Urals, a nonparty association headed by Regional Governor Eduard Rossel. The Our Home Is Our Town bloc, which unites all democratic forces and includes local cells of the Russia Is Our Home and the Forward Russia movements, came second, collecting half as many votes. United communists of the Region, members of the Russian Communist Party, and the Russian Communist Workers' Party came close to Our Home, trailing only several hundredth of 1 percent behind.

The Sverdlovsk Region, traditionally reserved in its attitude to communists, now gave them over 15 percent of votes. Yabloko and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia did not even clear the 5 percent hurdle. On the eve of the presidential elections, one should spare a thought for this distribution of votes.

Economic Issues

Russia: Security Council Commissions Analysis of State Finances

MM1604130496 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Anichkin, Dmitriy Dokuchayev, and Yuliya Ulyanova: "Explosive Finances. Security Council Decides To Find Out What Threat Money Poses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the instructions of the Russian Security Council, the Finance Academy under the Russian Government — one of the country's leading economic think tanks — has prepared an analysis of the state of finances from the viewpoint of economic security.

The existing shortfall in the capital needed for recovery from the crisis is dangerous for Russia.

According to Economy Ministry calculations, as of the end of 1995, in order for a steady economic upsurge to begin, approximately $150 billion is needed, whereas even with the most favorable breakdown only about one-third of that sum is available. Within Russia, the money for a resumption of industrial growth is physically lacking. In dollar equivalent, the money supply, including unutilized hard-currency cash held by the population, totals $50-60 billion.

External sources of finance which could "ignite" the economy are also absent. The volume of foreign investments in Russia now totals $4-5 billion a year. That is an extremely small sum compared with countries with a "hot" economy going through a period of reforms. China received $34 billion in investments in 1994, while the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary received 20 billion in total.

An Independent Expert's Opinion

Andrey Neshchadin, director of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Institute of Experts:

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"The economy does not need 'igniting' from outside, it needs to accumulate its own money. The problem is first and foremost that private investors have absolutely no protection; there should be guarantees in the form of political stability and a whole package of laws on insurance and banking activities. It is no use confusing the issue by talking about the poor quality of monetary resources or saying that the money is not working properly," the director of the Institute of Experts said. "There simply is not the money in the world to boost the whole of Russian industry. What is needed is an industry policy, without which there will never be enough investment money."

The document's authors regard state securities as a major source of danger.

Among these, the greatest potential unpleasantness is inherent in state short-term bonds which are used to cover the budget deficit. The Finance Academy specialists describe the policy for the expansion of state short-term bonds on the money market as a state "financial pyramid." In late 1994 and 1995 the volume of state securities doubled every five or six months. These securities attract to themselves a large proportion of the free monetary resources.

The Finance Ministry's Opinion

Bella Zlatkis, chief of the Securities Department:

"Calling state securities a new 'pyramid' is unethical, if only because the monetary authority itself emits money. And this is not a price 'pyramid' but a pyramid by volume. As for the 'danger' of the state securities market, this problem should not be taken out of context. It must be borne in mind that it is developing without competition. Last year the interbank market collapsed and there is no proper market for shares in privatized enterprises. Add to that three years of inflation. It is easy to invest money in the state short-term bonds market and easy to take it out again. Of course, investing money only in state short-term bonds is putting all our eggs in one basket. But the problem is not with the state short-term bonds market itself, but in the fact that the production sector does not make it possible to invest money in it."

In the opinion of the academy's experts, insufficient attention to the problems of the financial market carries a danger of the restoration of a directive, planned economy, the restoration of an economic "iron curtain." That path of development would mean a real threat to Russia's economic security and would mean our country's gradual transformation into a backward Third World country.

The other scenario for development is the continuation of the line of creating an open, liberal, and socially oriented economy.

The Finance Academy experts propose that the policy of stabilization be replaced with a policy of economic growth. Among the specific measures cited in the analytical memorandum are: emphasis on aggressive economic growth, reduction of the state securities market, review of privatization practice, cessation of the sale of Russian enterprises at knock-down prices, reduction of the tax burden, restriction of military spending, and a tax amnesty.

Russia: Pay Arrears Increase Again in Early Apr

MM1704090796 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by political observer Vitaliy Golovachev under the "Hot Topic" rubric: "Where Have Wages Gone Missing?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

At First Everything Went According to Schedule...

In the first week of April the total budget wage arrears did not decrease, as expected, but on the contrary increased.

There appeared to be no visible reasons for this. The situation had begun to improve rapidly during the second half of March. Money from Moscow came precisely on schedule. [passage omitted]

There Is Barter. But No Taxes

During the second half of March the federal treasury allocated over 20 trillion rubles [R] to repay arrears (including money for current wages). This is a sum that beggars imagination — an average of over R1 million for every worker in the budget sphere. You would have thought there should have been plenty for everyone. So where is the money? [passage omitted]

I had to carry out a little research of my own which helped reveal at least **three** reasons for the new upsurge in the wage arrears crisis.

Let us begin with the **first** reason and perhaps the main one. It is well known that enterprises and organizations in the budget sphere have different sources of funding. Some come under the center and receive money from the federal treasury, while others — for instance, schools and a number of hospitals — are funded from the regional budget. When rush work began in February to "unravel" the wage crisis, Moscow told the regions: "The federal budget is fully settling up for its

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commitments. But we are prepared to go even further — to allocate additional funds to regional budgets if you do not have enough money of your own to repay your debts. Can you tell us how much money each oblast, republic, and kray needs for this?" These calculations were made at local level, the figures were given and checked, and the money was dispatched from Moscow. Administration heads signed the appropriate protocols.

However, life proved more complex than this scheme. How did the regions carry out the calculations that were subsequently submitted to the Finance Ministry? Very simply: They took the average level of budget revenue (taxes and other receipts), compared it with the volume of wage arrears, and asked the center to supply the missing amount. However, the whole problem is that this year tax receipts to regional and local budgets in many regions have proved much lower than expected.

It is not all that difficult to explain this: In mutual settlements enterprises are increasingly switching **to barter** — not only because there is no money, but mainly in order to **avoid taxes.** Many have acquired a "taste for barter" and are refusing to make normal payments even when they have the money. In short, in many cases regional "purses" are very empty, and, despite financial support from the capital, it has been impossible to fully settle up for arrears at local level.

"February wages were paid," A. Bedrik, deputy head of Rostov Oblast Administration, says, "but payments for March will probably be delayed until 1 May. We are particularly worried about the difficult situation in Taganrog and Volgodonsk.... Many health care workers, lecturers at higher educational institutions and vocational and technical schools, and scientific associates have not received their wages."

In Kemerovo around 60 percent of hospitals and other medical establishments are financed from the compulsory medical insurance fund. But if enterprises make no payments to this fund, where is the money for wages for doctors and nurses going to come from?

We Are Robbing Peter To Pay Paul

The **second** reason for the increase in wage arrears is the local authorities' use of funds **for other purposes.** Harsh criticism of the oblast, city, or rayon leaders is by no means always appropriate here. For instance, money is allocated to pay wages to doctors at an emergency center. But at the same time they have to buy gasoline for the vehicles and medicines for the chests the teams take out with them. They have to use some of the wage money (there is simply no other money) in order to purchase fuel and medicines. Who could bring themselves to condemn the "violators"? As in cases where wage money has been used to buy food for hospitals....

The situation is more complex when local leaders try to use the allocated funds **to patch up holes in the budget.** For instance, power industry workers turn off the power because of nonpayments — what can the administration head do?

It is possible that in the course of checks personnel of the Finance Ministry Control and Auditing Administration, labor inspectorates, and tax police will uncover cases of serious abuses by leaders at various levels, of "holding on" to money in commercial banks, or of the use of money for their own priority payments (as happened in February, for instance), but so far I have been unable to find such instances (in the second half of March and the start of April). "Holding on" is probably happening even now in some places, but, nevertheless, I think the main problem is not this but the continuing economic crisis. The upshot is that we are robbing Peter to pay Paul — we are patching holes in one spot by making them in another.

Finally, the **third** reason for the increase in arrears is the **slow** (in a number of cases) **processing of money** from the federal treasury to specific workers. [passage omitted]

The most complex situation with regard to budget arrears is in Arkhangelsk Oblast (R254 billion), Krasnoyarsk Kray (R244 billion), and Rostov Oblast (R130 billion). Those figures (as of 8 April) are preliminary and are still being checked, but nevertheless the scale of nonpayments clearly demonstrates that the crisis is still a long way from solution.

In the first week of the present month wage arrears to "budget- funded workers" increased markedly in the social sphere: education — arrears up 50 percent (from R1 trillion to R1.5 trillion); health care — up 40 percent; culture and art — up 70 percent. In construction, agriculture, and transportation arrears because of the lack of direct funding from budgets at all levels decreased slightly, but in industry they increased by R15 billion. Overall, budget arrears increased from R2.7 to R3.4 trillion over the week, as I have already said. It is scarcely any consolation that the trend toward a rather slow but nevertheless steady decrease in arrears persisted in the nonbudget sphere in April — they were down from R19.3 trillion to R18.4 trillion (by way of comparison: R20.5 trillion as of 18 March).

Treasury Relaxes Too Soon

In an interview with KOMMERSANT a little while ago Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov declared: "We have

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finished repaying wages." This was not easy. Not a ruble was spent on investment. Extra securities were floated on the state short-term bond market. No money was provided for "shipments to the north," the countryside, or regional problems. But they found the financial resources, handed them over, and...relaxed. But, in view of our conditions, work on this should not have been concluded but should merely have been beginning. What about monitoring on the part of the federal treasury, the Finance Ministry Control and Auditing Administration, and labor inspectorates? What about clear and exacting analysis of the situation and the reasons leading to the new increase in debts?

I would like to hope that the unexpected increase in budget wage arrears will be most carefully and urgently analyzed in the government, in presidential structures, and at the level of regional leaders. Vigorous, resolute measures are needed. Not only the prestige of the head of state but the mood, material situation, and trust in the authorities of millions of Russians depend on this.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Udovenko Comments on Cooperation With NATO

LD1604185896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 16 Apr 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking at the news conference Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said that cooperation between his country and NATO proceeds in four directions.

This is Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace program, in the work of the North-Atlantic Council for Cooperation, in the forces for carrying out agreements on Bosnia and interaction in the framework of implementing the plan for expanded cooperation with NATO, Udovenko said.

The issue of Ukraine's formal participation in NATO has not been raised, since Ukraine is a country belonging to no blocs, he pointed out.

In the meantime, as Interfax - Ukraine learned from the chief of the political analysis department of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry Igor Kharchenko, a document determining how to implement expanded and more profound relations between Ukraine and NATO was signed in Brussels last week.

According to the diplomat, it provides for exchanging top-level visits.

There are plans to convene NATO's Political Committee and Ukrainian representatives for a session under the 16+1 formula. The topics under discussion may include the architecture of European security and the issue of security for Ukraine, as a state that gave up nuclear arms voluntarily.

The document also provides for continuing special consultations on the process of removing nuclear weapons from Ukraine, Kharchenko said.

Ukraine: Kiev Delegation Participates in CEI Conference in Vienna

WS1704090396 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0646 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to reports from the press center of the Ukrainian Embassy in Vienna, representatives of Central European Initiative [CEI] membernations: Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Austria, Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine and representatives of the United Nations' European Economic Commission are attending a conference in Vienna, the Austrian capital. The conference focused on economic cooperation issues, particularly development of small- and medium-scale businesses.

Participants in the conference called for greater support for trade, stimulation of innovation, improvement of industrial cooperation, harmonization of juridical systems, and integration into the international information system. The Ukrainian delegation to the conference was led by Deputy Economics Minister Volodymyr Naumenko, who briefed participants in the conference on the progress of reforms in Ukraine. He expressed Ukraine's interest in becoming a full member of the organization. Participants at the conference were received by Austria's President Thomas Klestil.

Ukraine: Deputy Economics Minister Addresses UN Commission

WS1704091996 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0646 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to reports by UKRINFORM's Geneva correspondent, the 51st session of the European Economic Commission, one of the United Nations' five regional commissions, has opened in Geneva. The commission has 55 members: practically all European nations, former Soviet republics, the United States, Canada, and Israel. The session will discuss a wide range of issues involving economic cooperation in Europe, the commission's activities aimed at assisting integration of nations implementing transition programs, including Ukraine, into the world economy. The session will also discuss activities marking the commission's 50th anniversary in 1997 and shaping its strategies in line with the changes taking place in Europe.

The leader of the Ukrainian delegation to the session, Deputy Economics Minister Oleksandr Yaremenko, addressed the session on the opening day. He noted the commission's important role in encouraging economic cooperation and stressed the need for the commission to further encourage provision of assistance to countries implementing transition programs. On the basis of the Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's April 2 address to the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council], Mr. Yaremenko briefed the session on the positive tendencies in the Ukrainian economy as well as on measures aimed at stabilizing the economic situation and improving market relations. He also drew attention to the problems facing Ukraine as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

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Ukraine: Kuchma Sends Message to Bosnia's Izetbegovic on Peace

LD1604190296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 16 Apr 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 16 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukraine attaches great importance to implementation of the military and civilian parts of the Dayton agreements and is prepared to take a most active part in this, says a message sent by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to Alija Izetbegovic, the leader of Bosnia and Herzegovina, that will be carried by a Ukrainian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Khandogiy.

It was announced at a briefing in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry in Kiev Tuesday that the visit of the delegation to Sarajevo will start on April 17. The delegation will meet with Bosnian leaders and hold talks in the Foreign Ministry.

Ukraine: Crimea Signs Protocol With PRC's Hainan Province

WS1704092396 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0111 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 16. A two-day visit of a governmental delegation from the China's Hainan province in Crimea finished on Tuesday after the signing of a protocol on establishment of friendly relations between their province and Crimea.

The delegation was headed Hainan's Vice Governor Mao Jizhong [spelling of name as received] and accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Ukraine Pan Zhanlin.

Officials said the protocol, signed Monday, was based on a joint Ukrainian-Chinese communique signed in September 1994.

In the protocol, both sides agreed on the "establishment of friendly cooperation" in order "to develop, in different forms, exchange and cooperation in the fields of economics and trade, science and technology, culture, education and health care."

The delegation brought to Crimea three containers with humanitarian aid worth 1 million Yuan (about $120,000) that had been promised by the province during a visit last January to Hainan by then-Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

According to Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Ilmi Umerov, who signed the protocol on behalf of Crimea, a decision has been already taken to distribute the aid between the Krym (Crimea) fund (a public fund dedicated to rendering help to Crimean Tatars), orphanages and social security departments in Crimean cities and districts.

Umerov also reported that the delegation visited Yalta and Bakhchisaray within the framework of the visit.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Security Service on Smuggling of Technological Data

LD1604192496 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1645 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — Over the course of 1995 the Security Service of Ukraine [SSU] prevented 10 attempts by foreigners to collect and take documents on scientific developments and leading technologies out of Ukraine. Over this same period preventive work was carried out with 11 Ukrainian citizens to prevent attempts to hand over such information to representatives of foreign special services, commercial organizations, and private individuals.

In 1996 the SSU detained a citizen at a customs checkpoint who had been trying to take abroad two discs with scientific information and 130 pages of manuscript, which were the intellectual property of a Ukrainian enterprise.

Recently more and more Ukrainian citizens and organizations have been making use of opportunities to receive and pass on information on the Internet.

Asked by a UNIAN correspondent whether the SSU was in control of the flow of secret state or commercial information across Ukraine's borders, Volodymyr Ilhov [name as received], the head of the SSU's main counterintelligence department, replied that there could be no complete control. According to him, the law on operational investigative activity allows this only when there is sufficient operational information on espionage activity from the Internet and sanctions applied by the prosecutor's office.

All in all, Volodymyr Ilhov noted, the SSU has the technical possibilities for this. Therefore, he emphasized, passing secret information beyond the boundaries of Ukraine via the Internet should not be considered a safe activity.

Ukraine: Communist Deputies Attempt To Disrupt Constitutional Debate

LD1704100596 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0810 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — At a session of the Supreme Council on 17 April, the Communist faction

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attempted to block proceedings by refusing to register their attendance. According to faction leader Yevhen Marmazov, this was done in protest against parliament's failure to call a debate on the dismissal of deputies occupying posts in the government. Marmazov spoke of a "pro- presidential shadow parliament" which had "emerged" in the Supreme Council and was trying to "plug" the presidential version of the draft constitution.

Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz offered a compromise, proposing that deputies write a letter to the president expressing their discontent with the fact that some of their colleagues continued to occupy government positions. But the Communist faction rejected this proposal.

According to the parliament's agenda for 17 April, deputies were to vote on whether to include the first reading of Ukraine's draft constitution into the session schedule.

Leader of the Reforms faction Sergey Sobolev suggested that the case of deputies occupying government posts should be discussed after the constitution was adopted. He argued that if these deputies were dismissed now, the parliament would be deprived of a constitutional majority needed to approve the constitution. "And this would lead to a referendum, which should be avoided at this stage," he said.

By 1100 [0800 GMT], faction and group leaders were exchanging statements on the situation. At 1100, [0800 GMT], pressed by the speaker, the Communist faction registered their attendance.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Commission Head Claims Misuse of Chernobyl Disaster Funds

LD1204202996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1833 GMT 12 Apr 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Apr 12 (Itar-Tass) — A total of 775 billion karbovanets allocated from the fund for elimination of after-effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident have been used to prop up commercial banks and grant privileged credits to commercial structures.

The Chernobyl disaster was used for profiteering by top officials in the government, ministries, departments and local governments, Grigoriy Omelchenko, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption, said on Friday.

He said that the commission had optionally traced funds allocated for the Chernobyl cleanup and social welfare of its victims and disclosed outrageous incidents of abuse of power. Grown-ups possessing no status of Chernobyl victims were sent to recreation centres as "children" affected by the nuclear catastrophe. Omelchenko said there were numerous incidents of rigging and other violations when grown-ups went to sanatoriums or on a cruise or business trips abroad provided with vouchers issued for children. The commission established that 67.5 billion karbovanets had been embezzled at the expense of children's rehabilitation.

Omelchenko gave the names of some senior officials who "had taken advantage" of the Chernobyl fund, including high-ranking officials of law-enforcement bodies, administration and government. In the Dnepropetrovsk region alone, 506 vouchers for children worth 14.5 billion karbovents were illegally given to grown-ups, while only 30 percent of all Ukrainian children affected by the disaster receive rehabilitation treatment.

Head of a working group of the commission Nikolay Khomich said that numerous incidents of abuse had been disclosed in the area of housing construction for resettled people. In 1990-1995, 15,034 houses and flats were built to accommodate people resettled from contaminated areas, which exceeds the actual number of resettled families by 3,188. However, the resettlement has not yet been completed, while there is no housing left. Khomich said that newly built cottages had been appropriated by members of local administrations who have nothing to do with the Chernobyl catastrophe. Besides, over 140 billion karbovanets allocated for housing construction had been used for other purposes in a nine-month period in 1995.

Members of the Parliamentary Commission for Fighting Organised Crime and Corruption believe that the efficiency of the use of the Chernobyl Fund for scientific purposes is equal to zero. No new agricultural projects have been introduced despite 130 "innovations" suggested by the "Pripyat" scientific-industrial association. The same is true of health-service projects involving expenditures worth 3.6 billion karbovanets.

The commission established that the ministry in charge of the Chernobyl cleanup had contributed 37 billion budgetary karbovanets to the authorised stock of a commercial bank. Chairman of the commission said that an investigation into the incident had been launched by the Ukrainian Prosecutor's Office.

On Friday, the commission adopted a resolution to forward documents disclosing facts of financial abuse to the general prosecutor's office with recommendations to file a lawsuit against officials regardless of their rank.

The president and the prime minister were recommended to dismiss officials who had violated the law.

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Ukraine: Crimean Premier Urges More Economic Independence From Kiev

AU1604125696 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 11 Apr 96 p 4

[Interview with Arkadiy Fedorovych Demydenko, prime minister of the Crimean Autonomous Republic, by URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent Oleksandr Kulyk; place and date not given: "The Crimean Government Opts for an Alternative"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kulyk] Arkadiy Fedorovych, representatives of British business circles have just left your office. Doesn't this visit indicate a growing interest in the Crimea on the part of foreign businessmen? If it's not a secret, what precisely interests those businessmen?

[Demydenko] The Crimea possesses an extremely powerful potential. For example, our country's climatic conditions are favorable for the development of agriculture, and there is also the health-resort sphere, which is at the level of European standards. Besides, foreign businessmen are attracted by our mineral wealth. The shelf of the Azov and Black seas is rich in oil and gas, something that even individual states do not have. All of this taken together gives reason to believe that our region is really highly promising.

Of course, foreign investments in the economy of autonomous Crimea is possible provided that there are conditions of political stability in the Crimea. People would see that we have peace and harmony and that we are getting ready for the opening of the holiday season, and this cannot but attract people. Thus, the Western businessmen's interest is perfectly understandable.

[Kulyk] There have been reports in the press that the Crimean government is drafting a purpose-oriented program for overcoming the economic crisis, which, figuratively speaking, rests on three whales.

[Demydenko] We are not making a secret of it and do not entertain illusions that the economic crisis may be overcome over a short period of time. It must be taken into account that the Crimean economy is organically connected with the economy of Ukraine, and our life largely depends upon general phenomena and not just upon our wish. That is why the Crimean Government's program for actions should rather be called a program for socioeconomic stabilization based upon the use of available possibilities. Indeed, it rests upon three whales. These are the development of our own power engineering, increase in the productivity of work of Crimean ports, and growth of the volume of oil and gas production on the sea shelf.

I expected your remark and want, therefore, to stress that this is not anything new. The Crimean government tried to solve these problems in the past as well. However, the aforementioned trends were not priority ones for us.

Today, the Crimea depends upon state subsidies. For example, our debt for the consumption of electricity alone is about 10 trillion karbovantsi. Still, we have several frozen gas wells that need to be put into operation. With equipment for producing steam energy, it is possible to raise our own electricity production to 400 megawatts, or satisfy our own needs by 50 percent. We already have agreements with individual firms that are taking upon themselves the technical part of the undertaking.

Let us take the second factor — ports. There are as many as six of them in the Crimea, but they are still used unsatisfactorily. I will say, by way of example, that today, just a single moorage of the Feodosiya Port earns us about $1 million profit a month.

Four other ports are occupied by the Black Sea Fleet, and they do not, in fact, work for the Crimean economy. It is necessary to solve the problem of transferring them to the Feodosiya commercial cargo port, as this will make it possible to double or triple the volume of work. This will result in more profit and relevant receipts to the budget.

[Kulyk] Incidentally, about the budget. It is no secret that, over the past year, the autonomy's budget showed indexes that were not very reassuring. Are there any reserves for improving the situation?

[Demydenko] Yes, there are reserves. These are, first and foremost, timely payment of taxes. However, their high rates do not contribute to this. The shadow economy exists, and we know about this. It did not emerge out of nothing. In the West, there also exists entrepreneurship, and there are businessmen there, and they strive to make their business profitable. But they do not try to avoid paying taxes. Why are things different here?

The second reserve is sensible use of budget funds. It is necessary to analyze thoroughly what the return was from the money that we had channeled to particular industries.

We strive to maintain the single-channel way of forming the Crimean budget, because it is better visible on the spot how to regulate revenue and expenditure. I hope that the Ukrainian Government and the Supreme Council will show understanding for our problems.

[Kulyk] Thus, as you said, one has to struggle....

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[Demydenko] I think that the Crimea has the right to enjoy greater economic independence. In the past, we had adopted a decision on reducing the excise duty and payments for land, but we were not given a chance to implement that decision. I think that we are also to blame for this, as we probably failed to convince Kiev of the expediency of such a decision. I believe that any problem may be solved positively through search for new variants.

[Kulyk] It is common knowledge that actions of any government largely depend on its composition. Specific people do specific things. Today, there are ideas of possible creation in the Crimea of a coalition government. What can you say about this?

[Demydenko] I am convinced that this is not the right time for forming a government based upon this principle. I have tried to bring home to the factions in the Crimean Supreme Council precisely this idea. It is not the best solution now, in conditions of an acute economic and social crisis, to dissolve the government and then create a new government.

The rumors to the effect that I am going to radically reform the structure of the government are also an exaggeration. I only want to optimize it. This is not because a new broom sweeps clean. Of course, we will not ignore the opinion of the Crimean parliament factions. However, the government is not a political club, but primarily a team of professionals. While maintaining what we have, it is necessary to analyze thoroughly the activity of each ministry and each state committee and then, on the basis of this, draw some conclusions. Perhaps, some departments will have to be amalgamated.

I believe that leaders at any levels must be able to achieve results through normal relations with people.

[Kulyk] Arkadiy Fedorovych, the Crimea is an extremely politicized region. Does the new prime minister of the autonomy have particular political preferences?

[Demydenko] I am on the side of those who do good to the Crimea not in words but in deeds. I am not a member of any political party, but an official, who has been entrusted with leadership of an executive power body. The government must deal with specific economy and resolve social problems. The law is the main thing that both every citizen and the prime minister must be guided by. Second, we must manage our economy in such a way that it would not be embarrassing for us to receive guests in our own home. [passage omitted]

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Belarus

Belarus: Maltsaw on Minsk-Moscow Pact, Disarmament

WS1604130196 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 13 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Belarusian Defense Minister Leanid Syamyonavich Maltsaw by Vyachaslaw Zyankovich; place and date not given: "Leanid Maltsaw: 'The Belarusian Army Was and Remains the Army of a Sovereign State'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zyankovich] Leanid Syamyonavich, there are plans to complete the withdrawal of Russian strategic nuclear missiles from Belarusian territory this year. Is the schedule of this withdrawal being observed?

[Maltsaw] Yes, it is observed. When Belarus obtained its state sovereignty, there were 81 strategic nuclear missiles on its territory — a legacy of the former USSR. According to an international agreement signed by Belarus, missiles which were made available to Russia had to be withdrawn from Belarus. As of today, there are only 18 strategic nuclear missiles in Belarus. There is an opinion that they will be withdrawn from our territory by the end of this year.

The Belarusian president has repeatedly stressed in his speeches that despite great economic difficulties, Belarus — which steadily fulfills its obligations pertaining to the withdrawal of nuclear weapons — cannot be indifferent toward appeals by leaders of a number of East European countries who express their intentions to join NATO and to locate NATO's nuclear missiles on their territories. I fully share the position of our president — who said that the Republic is ready to undertake relevant measures if this takes place.

[Zyankovich] Do you admit that due to this, Belarus could stop withdrawing nuclear missiles from its territory (of course, having coordinated this issue with Russia), if some East European countries join NATO and deploy NATO nuclear missiles on their territories?

[Maltsaw] I think that it will not come to such "tough" measures because the international community realizes all the dangers of confrontation and understands what it could lead to. The leadership of our Republic will act according to the situation.

[Zyankovich] If Poland joins NATO, do you admit that units and subunits of the Belarusian Armed Forces could be redeployed in order to be stationed close to the Belarusian-Polish border? Could Russian military bases emerge close to the territory of Poland if this country joins NATO? Russia must encourage the combat capability of Belarus, its military ally....

[Maltsaw] It is now difficult for me to say anything definite about prospects for the location of Russian military bases on Belarusian territory. If there is a need to locate them in the future, it would be necessary to thoroughly study this issue and see if it corresponds to the acting legislation.

Irrespective of how friendly Russia is to us, it nevertheless remains a foreign state. Therefore, in legal terms, the deployment of foreign military bases on Belarusian territory is a complicated issue.

As regards the potential redeployment of military forces in order to concentrate them close to the Belarusian-Polish border, as in my answer to your previous question, I will say that the Belarusian leadership will act according to the situation.

Undoubtedly, when Poland is admitted to NATO, Belarus will be forced to respond to this by relevant measures, both political and military.

The concentration of troops close to the Polish border is an extremity which could take place only after all political efforts meant to regulate issues — linked to the attempts to change the current military-political balance in Europe — are exhausted.

I am sure that it will not come to such extremes. All sides realize the pernicious nature of a course toward the confrontation of troops.

[Zyankovich] Having acquired independence, Belarus became the first state in the world which voluntarily agreed to give up nuclear weapons of its own. From the viewpoint of today, how politically far-sighted and how politically literate was this decision? Could it have been erroneous?

[Maltsaw] It is difficult to provide an unequivocal answer to this question.

In my opinion — I am a serviceman — immediately after the breakup of the USSR, it was necessary to specify the cost of nuclear weapons deployed on the territory of Belarus and to withdraw missiles based on an acceptable schedule for paying relevant means to Belarus. This would have made it much simpler and easier to resolve financial issues.

I personally cannot judge whether a refusal from our own nuclear weapons was politically farsighted, because I do not know all the nuances of the political situation which then existed. Of course, there was a certain degree of populism in the adoption of this decision. Against the background of the former euphoria, perhaps it was inevitable.

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Having refused from the ownership of nuclear missiles, Belarus has made a fine gesture, but did not receive anything in exchange. One could thoroughly calculate all the consequences of the withdrawal of missiles.... But in any case, in economic terms, not everything was done as it should have been.

[Zyankovich] What about the arms reduction according to the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty [CFE]?

[Maltsaw] Belarus has practically fulfilled its obligations arising from this agreement. From 1992, the Republic has dismantled 1,873 tanks, 1,441 armored vehicles, and 130 combat aircraft. According to the quotas postulated for our Republic, the Belarusian Armed Forces are currently armed with 1,800 tanks, 2,600 armored vehicles, 1,615 artillery guns, 294 combat aircraft, and 80 helicopters.

Hence, the Republic must dismantle only a little over 100 armored vehicles — after which it would be possible to say that Belarus has fully fulfilled its obligations arising from the CFE.

Last week, the number of tanks subject to the dismantlement was an additional 100 tanks, but after an agreement on selling 100 tanks to Hungary was signed, the need to dismantle these 100 tanks fell away.

A so-called cascading [kaskadziravannye] took place — Hungary promised to dismantle its 100 obsolete tanks and Belarus sold over 100 of its modern tanks to it. This was mutually advantageous.

[Zyankovich] Leanid Syamyonavich, Belarus and Russia have declared a course toward integration. How will this influence the life of the Belarusian Army?

[Maltsaw] In general, the integration will positively influence the situation in our Armed Forces. It is important to realize here that the Belarusian Army remains the army of an independent state. As before, the Belarusian Armed Forces are subordinated to only one commander-in-chief — the Belarusian president.

According to concluded agreements, Russia will provide us with free repair of hardware and of equipment, as well as with technical services; it will also train our staff, supply fuel and lubricants for combat duty, make its firing ranges available to us, and supply us with long-range air-defense means.

Certain politicians who frighten the people by claiming that our Belarusian servicemen will be sent to the war in Chechnya are duping the people shamelessly. There was and is a law in Belarus according to which no Belarusian soldier can participate in wars abroad.

[Zyankovich] Perhaps this is wrong. A well-equipped Belarusian Army needs officers with military experience.

[Maltsaw] I do not agree with such a position. Modern equipment and a modern system of management make it possible to simulate any options of military actions during training sessions. Experience shows that if troops are well-trained during their exercises, there will be no problems with their skills and training during wartime.

The people's life and health is much more important than dividends from many army officers who "have smelled powder." In addition, we have quite a sufficient number of officers who have experience from Afghan War. Our task is to effectively use their expertise.

[Zyankovich] Are there plans — within the framework of the Belarusian-Russian integration — to establish a unified command of troops or a unified command of any separate group of troops?

[Maltsaw] No, there are no such plans. All the work will be based on coordinated actions. Each side will decide itself which army it needs. Even if there are combat actions, the command of the troops will not be coalitionist. Each country will perform command over its own army and will coordinate joint plans.

Belarus: Popular Front Leaders Seek Refuge in Poland

WS1604091396 Warsaw SZTANDAR in Polish 15 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by "PAP,LP": "Zyanon Paznyak and Syarhey Navumchyk Forced To Emigrate; Belarusian Opposition Leaders in Poland"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Leaders of the Belarusian Popular Front Zyanon Paznyak and Syarhey Navumchyk, who claim they have been forced to emigrate, are due to arrive in Poland today. They left Belarus after the first demonstration against the integration of their homeland with Russia. An investigation has been launched in Minsk schools of higher learning to establish which students and lecturers took part in the protests. These people might be expelled from the schools. [passage omitted]

Belarus: Opposition Statement Opposes Further Ties With Russia

WS1604131996 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1345 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A session of the Council of the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] took place in the BNF headquarters on April 13. It was held in the absence

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of the BNF leader. According to information received, Zyanon Paznyak is still in Prague. The session's agenda included three basic items - the past political events in the country (the main reporters were BNF Deputy Chairmen Lyavon Barshchewski and Vintsuk Vyachorka); the forthcoming 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe; and the freedom of the press in Belarus. The BNF Council made a statement which read: "The Belarusian Popular Front always stood and continues to stand for independent, democratic, and neutral Belarus. In this regard we reject any political games of 'unions,' 'communities,' and 'commonwealths.' The events of March 24-25 and April 2 showed that there are strong forces in the country who realize the value of such notions as 'independence,' 'freedom,' and 'democracy.' We are especially inspired by the fact that people of the younger and middle-aged generations make up a majority of them. We will fight for our motherland and against the establishment of a new empire in the east of Europe by all possible methods allowed by the Belarusian Constitution."

Belarus: Russian Oil Companies Increasingly Active in Belarus

MK1604134096 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 1

[ANI report: "Belarus Strengthens Cooperation With LUKoil and YuKOS Companies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarus Deputy Premier Valeriy Kokarev held a joint conference with the heads of the republic's oil refining sector and of the Russian oil companies LUKoil and YuKOS. According to the general director of Belarus's oil-refining Naftan Production Association, Konstantin Chesnovitskiy, the association's work collective gave its consent to holding a public floating in 1996. In accordance with an agreement between Russian oil companies and the government of Belarus, in the event the Naftan Production Association is floated, 51 percent of shares in this enterprise will be handed over in trust to the joint Rosbelnafta enterprise, where the Russian side is represented by LUKoil and YuKOS.

Belarus: 50 Special Purpose Russian Police Reportedly Arrive

WS1604141096 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1427 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] has information that a group of about 50 officers of the Russian police for special missions has arrived in Belarus. They have been quartered in a base of a Belarusian special police detachment which is situated 20 kilometers away from Minsk in the direction of the Rakaw highway.

This information was given to a BELAPAN correspondent by BNF Deputy Chairman Stanislaw Husak. According to him, Belarusian authorities are preparing in that way for the forthcoming large-scale demonstration in Minsk on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Among the organizers of this action, which is entitled "Chernobylski Shlyakh," there are nationalist and democratic organizations.

Belarus: Lukashenka Plans Nationalization of Interbank Exchange

MM1504151096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Viktor Dyatlikovich: "President of Belarus Nationalizes Currency Exchange"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka has decided to nationalize the Minsk Interbank Currency Exchange. On 9 April he signed edict No. 139 "On reorganizing the Interbank Currency Exchange joint-stock company." According to the edict, the exchange will be turned into a "state institution under National Bank management." The National Bank has been instructed to accept the exchange's assets and liabilities and also compensate its founders for funds invested in the authorized fund on the basis of the share as of 1 January 1996. The edict came into effect the day it was signed.

The National Bank did not hear of the decree's existence until Thursday. "The edict was not agreed with us," a senior representative of the National Bank, who wished to remain anonymous, told IZVESTIYA. According to him, the "National Bank has been trying to find legitimate ways of increasing the state's influence in the currency market, but the presidential side decided to solve all the problems at a stroke."

Around 10 percent of the shares belonged to the authorized fund, with the remaining shares being distributed among commercial banks. While refusing to name the amount of possible compensation the state would have to pay to the banks, the National Bank representative did say they were "not very large sums."

The edict of the president of Belarus was the logical extension of his actions to tighten up state regulation of the currency market. Alyaksandr Lukashenka issued an edict a month ago dismissing the exchange's director, Vladimir Biryuk. It was then that the president first mentioned his intention to nationalize the exchange and six major commercial banks in the country. It appears that the president has started to carry out his plans.

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Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan: Foreign Minister Departs for Iran, Pakistan Trade Talks

LD1504094096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0923 GMT 15 Apr 96

[By Alisher Niyazov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK, April 15 (Itar-Tass) — Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva began her working visit to Pakistan and Iran today.

Roza Otunbayeva intends to convince official and business circles of these Middle Eastern countries of the favourable investment climate available in Kyrgyzia and its readiness for broader cooperation, in particular, in the field of energy and transport.

As Itar-Tass learnt at the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry, Otunbayeva plans to meet with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and representatives of the Ministry of Transport and the energy complex of Pakistan. She will also take part in a conference of humanitarian development which is being held now under the aegis of the world forum.

The Kyrgyz Foreign minister is to meet with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, leaders of the government and parliament of Iran. During the meetings the sides are expected to discuss trade and economic cooperation of the two countries, in particular, the forthcoming opening in the middle of May of the railway line Mashhad (Iran) — Serakhs (Turkmenistan), which will connect Central Asian and Middle East states.

Kyrgyzstan: Akayev Wants Closer Ties With Slovakia

LD1604174996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 16 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Askar Akayev said in the wake of talks with his Slovak counterpart Michal Kovac in Bishkek Tuesday that his country wants closer ties with Slovakia in various fields.

Akayev said that the two nations started cooperation 71 years ago when a group of volunteers, chiefly Slovaks, arrived in Kyrgyzstan to help the nation create its industries. At that time, he believes, the building, light and textile industries of the republic were founded. "Now we open a new page in this cooperation," Akayev said.

The two presidents signed a communique which will be the basis for a package of bilateral treaties and agreements, possibly in Bratislava where Akayev was invited to come on an official visit later in the year.

Kovac told journalists that Kyrgyzstan was the first CIS member state he visited because economic and democratic changes and privatization are the fastest in it. This was the most important consideration for successful cooperation between the two countries which face similar problems and strive for similar goals.

Kovac believes that a legal framework is needed to step up bilateral cooperation and suggested forming a joint Kyrgyz-Slovak commission on trade and economic cooperation. He believed that the Bishkek talks gave a new impetus for the bilateral relations.

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Armenia

Armenia: Foreign Minister Comments on PRC's Qian Qichen Visit

LD1604162796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1451 GMT 16 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 16 Apr — No political problems exist between Armenia and China, and we are looking forward to the further development of bilateral relations between us with great optimism, Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan told journalists today, when summing up the results of the two-day visit to Yerevan by Qian Qichen, vice premier of the State Council and foreign minister of the People's Republic of China.

The press service of Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that during the talks held the Armenian minister set out the main directions in the republic's foreign policy, discussed mutual relations with Russia, the countries of Europe, and the Near East. In response to the request of the Chinese minister, Papazyan described the problem in Nagornyy Karabakh in detail.

Qian Qichen noted that the acquisition of independence by Armenia has created new conditions for organizing bilateral relations on a new level. If difficulties arise in relations between our country, he is convinced that they will only be temporary ones.

The sides expressed the conviction that the upcoming visit to China by the president of Armenia will act as a serious incentive for the development of relations between the two countries.

At the meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, the Chinese minister voiced support for an ever growing part to be played by economic bodies in the development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The head of the Armenia Government said that Armenia was interested in importing Chinese goods, in Chinese capital being invested in Armenia and in expanding cooperation between large companies in the two countries.

The Chinese minister met Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today as well.

Armenia: Bagratyan, PRC's Qian Discuss Cooperation

LD1604184696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, April 16 (Interfax) - Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met in Yerevan Tuesday to consider bilateral cooperation, the Armenian governmental press service told Interfax.

Bagratyan spoke in favor of broadening economic cooperation between Armenia and China.

Yerevan hopes that Beijing will support its application for membership in the World Trade Organization, he said. Armenia is also interested in developing bilateral cooperation in the area of health care, Bagratyan said.

Bagratyan invited the Chinese delegation to take part in a "Friends of Armenia" conference in Paris, planned for the end of May 1996. Yerevan has already sent similar invitations to 30 donor countries.

The Chinese foreign minister emphasized the need to intensify bilateral trade-economic cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit, the same source said.

He also spoke out in favor of establishing direct contacts between the two countries' companies.

Qian Qichen thanked Armenia for the aid provided to China in the wake of the recent earthquake.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is expected to meet with the Chinese official on Tuesday afternoon. Ter-Petrosyan and the Chinese foreign minister are likely to discuss the opening of the Armenian Embassy in Beijing in the near future in particular, Interfax learned.

Armenia: Foreign Minister Cautious Over 'New Processes Within CIS'

NC1604145296 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1531 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 15 (NOYAN TAPAN)—"We are carefully watching over new processes within CIS and in case of a necessity will try to take the right steps not to endanger our independence, our people's security and solution of national problems", Foreign Minister of Armenia Vahan Papazyan said. However, in his opinion, it is still too early to speak about the position especially when there is another significant factor: "political interest seem to be on the surface but the thing is whether these interests meet the economic realities". "I, myself, doubt it", said Foreign Minister.

Armenia: Foreign Minister Discusses Strengthening Ties Abroad

NC1604145496 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1531 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 15 (NOYAN TAPAN)— President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma is

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supposed to visit Armenia in the middle of May. Before this Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan will visit Kiev in order to initial an agreement on friendship and cooperation between Armenia and Ukraine for the presidents to sign it later on in Yerevan. According to Vahan Papazian, this agreement is an important stem: Ukraine has been always a stable partner for Armenia both in the sphere of economy and policy.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is supposed to visit France and Greece this autumn. According to Vahan Papazyan, these visits are very important since both France and Greece are amiable towards Armenia and even allies for Armenia. That is why it is very important that these relations are discussed at president level.

Vahan Papazyan emphasized the importance of Armenian President's visit to Iran, saying that the visit "is aimed at giving a new impulse to Armenia-Iran business relation and speed up their development".

Mr. Papazyan noted that there are people who are pessimistic about Armenia's being settled as an independent state in the international community. This is directly connected with Karabakh problem. Nevertheless, Armenia can and will continue to strengthen its positions within the international community. "I do not see any serious obstacle for it", said Vahan Papazyan.

Armenia: Party Leader Supports Economic Integration Within CIS

NC1604145696 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1648 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 15 (NOYAN TAPAN)— "Armenia should take part in an integration process within CIS as soon as possible", Chairman of Ramkavar-Azatakan [Democratic-Liberal] Party of Armenia (RAPA) Ruben Mirzakhanyan said April 12.

According to him, integration is the only way to reanimate Armenia's industry, maintain our producers, evade colonization of Republic's economy. "It is required by traditional economic relations, common market, acting military-political alliance and moral-psychological spirits of our people", Ruben Mirzakhanyan said. On behalf of RAPA administration he said that this quite new integration must be carried out together with establishment of closer economic ties with Russia.

According to Mirzakhanyan, integration can become a serious political step in strengthening Armenia's independent statehood and will make more effective the negotiations over Karabakh problem.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Former President, Defense Minister Detained in Moscow

MM1704080196 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Viktor Sokirko and Svetlana Turyyalay: "Mutalibov in Handcuffs Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The name of former President Ayaz Mutalibov has once again become the focus of the mass media's rapt attention. At the end of last week, the Moscow law enforcement organs detained the former Azerbaijani head of state, who has been hiding from Azerbaijani justice in the Russian capital for several years. However, as Namik Abbasov, Azerbaijani minister of national security, told your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent, Mutalibov was arrested "by chance": Staffers of the law enforcement organs had gone to a Moscow apartment with the intention of detaining Khorsha Ibragimov, who "'collected' money throughout Azerbaijan for Mutalibov," and they discovered the former president himself there. Namik Abbasov revealed another interesting detail about the arrest: Ayaz Mutalibov was not alone in this apartment when he was apprehended late at night, he was in the company of a certain Rena, from Baku, who was also detained.

Two days later, Ragim Gaziyev, former Azerbaijani minister of defense who also belonged to the Union of Civil Accord headed by Mutalibov, was also detained in Moscow. The question of whether the Russian authorities will extradite these criminals, who are especially dangerous for Azerbaijan, is now on the agenda. From what the republic's minister of national security said, "there are forces in Moscow which are interested in leaving Mutalibov there and using him to their own ends."

Meanwhile, criminal proceedings have been instituted against Mutalibov back home for assisting the introduction of Soviet troops in Baku in January 1990 when 135 people died under tank tracks, for surrendering the city of Khodzhaly to the Armenian troops, and for organizing two coup d'etat attempts in October 1994 and March 1995. And the main trump card is that Ayaz Mutalibov is Geydar Aliyev's worst enemy. It was Mutalibov who hindered Aliyev's return to Baku from Moscow in every way he could.

The Russian General Prosecutor's Office commented in the following manner on the recent detention in Moscow of former President Ayaz Mutalibov: "Mutalibov was detained, rather than arrested, which is envisaged in international agreements, and may be held in custody for

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30 days. The detention of Ayaz Mutalibov was carried out on the basis of an appeal from the Azerbaijani side, which sent the relevant inquiry to the Russian law enforcement organs."

As Aleksandr Zvyagintsev, the general prosecutor's senior assistant, noted, the relevant documents confirming the activities he is being charged with have been demanded from the Azerbaijani side over the issue of Mutalibov's extradition. The question of handing the former president over to the Azerbaijani law enforcement authorities will only be settled following a careful study and analysis of the documents and if sufficient proof is at hand.

Azerbaijan: Moscow Arrest of Former President Mutalibov Examined

MK1704085596 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Alan Kasayev: "Former President and Defense Minister of Azerbaijan Have Been Arrested in Moscow. In Return, the Kremlin Is Obviously Counting on Geydar Aliyev's Loyalty to Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since Geydar Aliyev — former member of the politburo of the USSR Communist Party's Central Committee and, what would be now be called deputy premier of the government [then: deputy chairman of the USSR council of ministers] — came to power in Azerbaijan, there have appeared rather harsh novelties in the relations between Baku and Moscow. Whereas the ties of Ayaz Mutalibov, the first president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the last USSR leaders and the Russian authorities were of an obvious allied character, and whereas Abulfaz Elchibey, the People's Front leader who succeeded him, tried to build Azerbaijan's sovereignty largely by making statements and demarches, the highly experienced Aliyev immediately attempted to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's."

At present, Russian-Azerbaijani relations are obviously close to the freezing point. The role of Baku in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] is far from what some other CIS countries would like it to be. Meanwhile, it is becoming increasingly evident every month that the strategic position of Azerbaijan dictates that Moscow — since it is the capital of Russia and the center of the new trends toward integration in the post-Soviet territory — establish closer relations with this country. At issue are, above all, the great oil resources that are accessible to many developed countries, but not to Russia. Taking into consideration the numerous military and political aspects of integration trends, such as the need for some consolidation of post-Soviet states in response to NATO's challenges on the west axis, the Azerbaijani "gap" in the deployment of Russian Army units in Transcaucasia, and the availability of transportation routes to the east, etc., relations with Azerbaijan are regarded as a top priority.

It turned out, however, that there are very few control levers that can be used to exert pressure on the Azerbaijani leaders. For the time being, there is just one such factor that seems to be more or less realistic; that is, the hypothetical — thus far — assistance of Russia in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict and the return of at least the indisputably Azerbaijani territories that have been occupied by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and which are called its "buffer" zone. The capabilities of Moscow, however, are more than limited in this respect, too, and this was shown explicitly by the latest round of talks on the settlement. Again, as has nearly always been the case over the past few years, the trump cards appeared to be in Geydar Aliyev's hands, who — and this is completely evident to everyone — is regularly outplaying Russian politicians by calculating their moves well in advance.

What is happening now in Moscow and its outskirts — that is, mass arrests of former Azerbaijani leaders by the Russian police and of those regarded by Baku as being involved in a conspiracy against its present leadership — is a politically motivated action, being above all performed in order to please Geydar Aliyev and, as a result, to gain all possible political dividends. This assumption is further supported by a peculiar interpretation of the recent political experience in connection with the elimination from public life of Azerbaijani Ex-President Elchibey and Gamsakhurdia, the quite legally elected ex-president of Georgia and Yeltsin's former partner in negotiations. The fact that the former was deprived of power and the latter, in addition to this, of life — he was blown up by Russian marines in a village house in Western Georgia — gave grounds for some people to presume that similar actions could be taken with respect to Ayaz Mutalibov. A number of small figures like Babrak Karmal, the former Afghan leader, and Igor Georgadze, the former Georgian security head, are likely to be next in line.

As for its most probable consequence, the large-scale Russian-Azerbaijani police operation could result in a further strengthening of Geydar Aliyev's position, and in a still greater level of disrespect for Moscow by both the East and the West, rather than in Azerbaijan's joining the "treaty of the four" or the "treaty of the two" or, even more so, the deployment of Russian military and oil contingents in that country.

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Azerbaijan: Nagorno-Karabakh Favors Political Settlement of Crisis

LD1704072896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0634 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GENEVA, April 17 (Itar-Tass) — Arkadiy Gukasyan, head of the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation at the talks, conducted under the aegis of the Minsk group of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe voiced support for continuing a search for ways of settling the Karabakh problem politically.

Speaking with journalists in Geneva, he welcomed the ceasefire regime with Azerbaijan, continuing from May 12, 1994, stressing that this situation is favourable for drafting "a package solution of problems".

Gukasyan arrived here at the invitation of non-government organisations participating in a session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

He told a news conference that "there is some weariness of the sides, and there is a desire ... to settle problems politically".

At the same time, "it is too early to speak about some progress in the negotiating process." He put responsibility for this on Azeri representatives.

Nagorno-Karabakh authorities proceed from a premise that there are two independent states in the territory of the former Azerbaijan Soviet republic, Gukasyan stressed.

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze, PRC's Qichen Discuss 'Eurasian Corridor'

LD1704101596 Tbilisi BGI in Russian 0923 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has met Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Tbilisi. The meeting took place yesterday [16 April] behind closed doors. After the meeting, Eduard Shevardnadze told journalists that not only Georgia, but the entire Caucasus had become a sphere of Chinese interests.

"We have discussed the restoration of the Silk Route and prospects for the development of the Eurasian corridor. I think that the minister will also discuss this during his visit to Baku. Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have an interest in the creation of a China-Transcaucasus-Europe corridor," Eduard Shevardnadze said.

At an official dinner in honor of the Chinese guests, Eduard Shevardnadze said: "When my country was in need of strong friends, China gave her a helping hand." Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen thanked the president for his welcome, saying that he had felt a warm attitude as soon as he set foot on Georgian soil and that China and Georgia were linked by old traditions: the Silk Route passed through Georgia and Chinese tea found another home in Georgia. Our very good relations will continue in future, the Chinese guest said.

Georgia regards China — just as China regards Georgia — as a single and indivisible state, Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili said while discussing Chinese territorial problems with the Chinese foreign minister yesterday.

Georgia: China Pledges Cooperation, Assistance

LD1704095796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0916 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 17 — Georgian President Eduard Shevarnadze told journalist today, commenting on his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on Tuesday night, that his "visit showed that not only Georgia, but the entire Caucasus had fallen into an area of interests of such a giant country as China."

Shevarnadze said that during the meeting the sides discussed problems of boosting bilateral cooperation and prospects for the restoration and development of the "Silk Route" — a Euroasian transport corridor which will run across Georgia. This theme will dominate talks to be held by the Chinese foreign minister in Baku, Shevarnadze said.

At a meeting with Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharashvili the Chinese foreign minister pledged to reschedule Georgia's outstanding debt to China and offer assistance in the area of energy and humanitarian supplies.

Qian Qichen is the top Chinese official to pay an official visit to Georgia over the past five years since Georgia became an independent country.

Georgia: Abkhazia Ready To Join Federation as Georgia's Equal

MK1604135896 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 96 p 3

[NEGA report]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a statement by the personal representative of Abkhazia's president at

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the talks to settle the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict, Anri Dzhergeniya, the republic's leadership is expecting increasing pressure on the part of Russia. In his words, a high-ranking Russian Federation Foreign Ministry staffer said in Moscow that the situation will not change unless the Abkhaz side signs a protocol proposed by the Russian side on a federative system for Georgia, with Abkhazia joining it with the rights of a federation component. The representative of the Abkhaz president stated that the Abkhaz side is "ready to enter into the so-called 'federative alliance' with Tbilisi calling for the equal status [ravnosubyektnost] of Abkhazia and Georgia."

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Estonia

Estonia: NATO Secretary General Starts Talks With Estonian Leaders

LD1704101896 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] NATO Secretary General Javier Solana arrived in Estonia late last night. Erik Samel reports:

[Begin Samel recording] Javier Solana began his Estonian visit by meeting with President Lennart Meri. This was a kind of continuation of their exchange of ideas three weeks ago in Brussels, at the North Atlantic Council sitting. The NATO secretary general noted that he had a private discussion with Lennart Meri in Brussels and they discussed NATO's development. Both Javier Solana and Lennart Meri emphasized after their meeting last night that it is not NATO's expansion but the organization's openness which is under discussion. NATO's openness was stated in the 1949 Washington treaty. [passage omitted]

Javier Solana noted that the aim is to determine more precisely by the end of the year any future cooperation with the countries which have joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

After their meeting, President Lennart Meri issued a statement saying that Estonia's position has been clear from the very start. Moving closer to NATO is a priority for Estonian foreign policy, and there is no alternative provider of security. Estonia's aim is to become a full NATO member through this process. According to Meri, Estonia is convinced that NATO's expansion forms the cornerstone of the European security structure. He added that Estonia fails to understand Russia' current sharp opposition to NATO's expansion.

The NATO secretary general began talks today with Estonian politicians at an early hour. His meeting with Defense Minister Andrus Oovel is scheduled to have finished by now, and a meeting with Foreign Minister Siim Kallas should have begun. Javier Solana's discussions with the Estonian leaders will end with a meeting with Prime Minister Tiit Vahi. [end recording]

Estonia: Meri, Solana Comment on NATO Enlargement

WS1704092096 Tallinn ETA in English 0747 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From 17 Apr, POSTIMEES, EESTI PAEVALEHT, p.1; "News Bulletin" No. 75]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Secretary General of NATO Javier Solana arrived for a visit to Estonia yesterday, April 16. He met President Lennart Meri in Kadriorg late last evening. Foreign Minister Siim Kallas also attended the meeting.

Estonia's foreign policy on the issue of NATO enlargement has been clear from the beginning: the approach to NATO is a security priority with no alternatives, President Meri said at a news briefing afterwards. Estonia cannot understand Russia's continued opposition to NATO enlargement, he went on. We want to base our relations with Russia on goodneighbourly principles, but cannot approve that a third state dictates, which international organisations Estonia can join, Meri declared.

Javier Solana told the press that the NATO as an organisation has decided the enlargement, but concrete new members and the time of their admission are still open. All countries applying for membership are equal and individual dialogues will last throughout 1996.

"We judge Solana's visit as a clear sign that the country visited is being seriously considered as a member and measures are taken to guarantee its stable and democratic development," Defence Minister Andrus Oovel commented.

Javier Solana rejected Russian recommendations that some countries could only join the political organisation of NATO. Participation must be total, he stressed.

Estonia: Defense Minister's Views on Weapons Purchases

WS1604140996 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 15, BNS — Estonia currently has weapons for 22,000 men, Defense Minister Andrus Oovel said before the parliament Monday.

He said the country's army had light weapons for the infantry and a number of anti-tank weapons.

The minister said Estonia had earmarked 179 million kroons in its this year's defense budget for special purchases, which includes weapons. 132 million of that money goes to repayment of the country's debt under a nearly 50 million dollar arms deal with Israel, concluded in 1993.

The country seeks to have more anti-aircraft gunpower and 50 more 23-mm anti-aircraft guns are due here from Israel in addition to the 50 units that previously came as a gift under the arms purchase deal.

Oovel said the need to buy anti-aircraft weaponry should be kept in mind while drafting the state budget for 1997.

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Latvia

Latvia: Ulmanis, Havel Discuss Desire for NATO, EU Membership

LD1604155396 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1303 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Czech President Vaclav Havel today ended his three-day state visit to Latvia. A free-trade accord between Latvia and the Czech Republic was signed during the visit. The Czech Republic is the first central European country with which our state has signed such a document.

The Latvian and Czech presidents today visited the training center of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion at Adazi [near Riga]. The two presidents told a news conference about the issues discussed during the visit. Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis stressed that the two countries have put forward joining the European Union and NATO as their aim:

[Begin Ulmanis recording] Already at the very beginning, we agreed that we would pay less attention to purely economic matters. Therefore, we talked more about issues related to global processes in Europe and future prospects of our development. First of all, I would like to stress that both the Czech Republic and Latvia have clearly defined their wish to become full members of the European Union, the West European Union, and NATO. We touched on issues concerning the way in which the Czech Republic and Latvia can be admitted to the European Union and NATO, and we shared the opinion that no waves, no stages, no waiting lines should be created in this respect; on the contrary — definite strategic aims should be put forward, which would first of all ensure a security concept and stability of individual countries and Europe as a whole, and the process of admission would primarily have to follow these principles. And we also share the opinion that every sovereign country has the right to determine which alliances to join. Latvia and the Czech Republic agree that the identity of every country should be respected. [end recording]

Latvia: President, Prague's Havel Hold News Conference

WS1604141896 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Apr 16, BNS — The Czech Republic and Latvia have clearly defined their wish to become full-fledged members of the European Union, Western European Union and NATO, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis told reporters Tuesday.

Ulmanis and his Czech counterpart Vaclav Havel share an opinion that the EU enlargement should be effected by setting strategic goals for candidates rather than forming stages or waves of admission.

"We have a complete understanding in these basic issues," Havel said. In his words, "the will of different nations, actively expressed, should become the basis for the new European order."

Havel claims that EU hopefuls should cooperate rather than compete for a sooner admission to the trading bloc but the ordering of economy and laws should be carried out by each candidate separately.

In Ulmanis' opinion, a developed democracy is the main task ahead of Latvia.

The presidents praised the free trade agreement, which was signed on Monday, as a stimulus for the development of trade relations and contacts between businesspeople.

Latvia: Havel Views Possible European Future Security System

LD1604135796 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1100 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel and Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis held a news conference in Riga today to mark the end of Havel's state visit. Our special correspondent Vaclav Stahlavsky was among the journalists present at the conference.

[Begin correspondent Stahlavsky recording] Vaclav Havel and Guntis Ulmanis confirmed that they agreed on the principles of European cooperation and integration. The Czech President reiterated that it was necessary to draw up and to justify a schedule for the admission of new members to the European Union [EU] and NATO. Such an approach would strengthen confidence, he said. In this context, Havel refused to offer European organizations any order of admission. However, as a realist, Havel understands that the EU and NATO cannot be enlarged overnight by the admission of all the membership candidates.

Havel outlined in more detail his vision of a collective security system for our continent. The importance of the system will not only be limited to defense but it will also focus on the fight against international crime and the mafia. This system must be based on the lessons learned from what happened to Yugoslavia and it must be constructed so as to be capable of efficiently preventing regional conflicts.

With regards to NATO, the Latvian president reminded Russia that it has to respect the legitimate interests of the Czech Republic and of Latvia in the same way as the two countries respect Russia's interests. The Latvian president welcomed the signing of the Czech-Latvian free-trade accord and said that the visit to Latvia by Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus will take place soon. [end recording]

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Lithuania

Lithuania: Brazauskas, Solana Give News Conference

LD1604164296 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0945 GMT 16 Apr 96

[News conference given by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, in Vilnius; Solana speaks in English with superimposed Lithuanian translation — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Brazauskas] Allow me to welcome NATO Secretary General Javier Solana to Lithuania. This is the first visit of such high-ranking official. It is especially [word indistinct] now, as NATO's expansion and future are being very widely commented on by both politicians, journalists, and state leaders.

I would like to tell you very briefly about the essence of our discussion, and to outline, in a way, Lithuania's position on this issue.

First, NATO membership is the only option for Lithuania. Lithuania does not have any alternatives for guaranteeing its state security. We welcome the decision and the determination of NATO to expand. We hope [changes thought], we have no doubt that this will be achieved, and that NATO expansion to central and east Europe will not create any new division zones. This process should not be seen as some kind of aggressiveness or hostility toward one or another country. We strongly support the idea that NATO enlargement should create a totally indivisible security zone in Europe. That is why our proposal goes as follows: First, the candidates to become NATO members should be identified. The countries which are willing to become NATO members must be identified. Second — but this is a matter to be considered later — who [corrects himself] when it is going to happen.

We realize that the countries which aim to become NATO members, the 11 or 12 countries, today are in different situations in economic and social development. In respect of foreign policy there are certain, I would say, nuances in individual countries: relations with neighbouring countries, the requirements which are posed on human rights, national minorities, relations with neighbors, regional relations and so on. There are certain features and certain requirements in this respect.

Certainly, associate member countries of the European Union [changes thought], I believe that those countries can start cooperation with NATO, of course, subject to their determination to take part in NATO enlargement.

I would like to stress [corrects himself] to say something which we discussed, and I believe Mr. Solana will also mention it: Lithuania, although its armed forces are small, is participating very vigorously and in a very determined manner in both operations of peacekeeping and peace enforcement and in the Partnership for Peace program. The preparation of our army, and reorganizing of our armed forces in accordance with NATO standards is a process which is far from easy, but it is under way. We are preparing ourselves very seriously.

I would like to stress that today Mr. Solana will be presented with what is called a discussion document on NATO expansion, which has been prepared. It has been discussed by the State Defense Council. I believe that this document will reveal [corrects himself] will demonstrate how ready Lithuania is for NATO membership and what are Lithuania's goals, and how Lithuania is going to participate in this process.

That's about it from me. Now I would like to ask our guest to make his introduction.

[Solana] Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you very much for your kind words. Thank you also for your work in your country. I would like to congratulate you and your country with all the success in proceeding with political and economic transformation.

This is my first time in your country. I am visiting Lithuania as NATO secretary general. I am immensely pleased to visit your country. I am also pleased to praise all the work that you and your country are doing, especially where relations with NATO are involved.

I would like to note that we are very pleased with the cooperation with NATO which is currently taking place. Speaking about Partnership for Peace and tre North Atlantic Cooperation Council, I would like to take this opportunity to note that, in the bilateral exchange of ideas, Lithuania is a country which is very actively participating in the Partnership for Peace program. You took part in all 21 exercises and joint maneuvers. I would also like to thank you for what your countries are doing within the framework of the Baltic Battalion activities. The generosity of your country and cooperation with other Baltic countries in the implementation of the peace plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina will not be forgotten.

Recently, I had a chance to visit Bosnia and I saw your soldiers, the soldiers of Baltic Battalion, which are on duty together with the soldiers of the brigade of Nordic countries. I saw their sincerity, their professionalism, their generosity in carrying out this noble mission of peace, which brings peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I had a chance to meet your people in Bosnia. Allow me to say several words about what I saw there. I believe that it is very important to talk about what is

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now taking place in the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to understand what your country and all other countries are doing there. I saw the soldiers from a country like Denmark, which is a member country of both the European Union and NATO, acting together with the soldiers of the country like Poland, which is only planning to join the European Union and which wants to join NATO. They are acting together with soldiers of your country. Nearby, there are Swedish soldiers. Sweden is a part of the European Union, but it is not a member of NATO, and probably never will be. We have to learn a lesson from this excellent peace enforcement operation, where different countries, with different historical backgrounds, have one common goal, which is to establish peace and stability on the continent. My compatriots are taking part in this work, too.

I would like to note that, not far from the headquarters of the brigade of Nordic countries, there is a unit of the Russian Federation, which is also taking part in the peace enforcement operation. Further to the East, there is a battalion of the U.S. Army stationed. They arrived in that country with the same goal in mind. So, the work that NATO does is very clearly visible there. The work of other countries, which are not members of NATO, is visible there equally well. All those countries are bringing peace to Bosnia.

Now, I would like to emphasize something. There is an operation of paramount importance taking place there, and it is headed by NATO, with 16 NATO member countries taking part. However, there are also 16 or 17 countries, which are not NATO members, taking part there. All those countries want to contribute to peace enforcement operation, to the stability mission. I would like to thank your country for your generosity, which is shown in equipping servicemen for performing this noble mission.

Also, allow me to say that the cooperation with your country within the framework of Partnership for Peace is a component of immense importance. It also has another aspect, which I would like to emphasize. We, NATO and your country, cooperate in different areas, for instance, in the event of a disaster, so the cooperation is not always of a strictly military nature. I would like to emphasize that. Cooperation in the Partnership for Peace program represents an enormous amount of work, which involves a whole range of missions. This year, in 1996, we will try to continue the process, and to see NATO as an organization which is open to everyone.

In this respect, we are in the process of dialogue with 11 countries, one of which is Lithuania. It is a very exhaustive dialogue and discussion, in a course of which we are trying to identify the requirements of every country and organizational arrangements in respect of every country. The purpose of this dialogue is to admit new members in the future. The dialogue is proceeding in an open, very determined, and well-aimed manner. At the end of this year, the year 1996, our council will have an opportunity to assess all those countries and we will take the decisions which we have to take.

I would like to say very clearly that all countries which are taking part in this dialogue have a right to become NATO members. None of those countries has been a priori excluded from NATO membership. There is no prejudice against any of the countries. We are working jointly, and the decision which will have to be taken will be taken only after an open dialogue, and it will be made in an honest manner. In this introduction of mine, I would like to add that I am very happy to be here in Lithuania. It is my first time here. I believe that for me, as NATO secretary general, it is a great honor. I should have visited this country earlier, when I was heading the European Union. However, I could not do that because of my tight work schedule. So, my first visit to Lithuania is in the capacity of NATO secretary general.

I would like to say thank you to all of you, and to say thank you to your country for its cooperation in carrying out the mission (?of which I spoke earlier), the mission which is aimed at enforcing peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thank you all.

[Moderator] Thank you. Now it is the question time. Please make sure you push your button and speak directly to the microphone. Do not forget to mention your name and the publication you represent.

[Tarasevicius] Darius Tarasevicius, BALTIC NEWS SERVICE. I would like to ask Mr. Solana: Do you see a point in speculations about the possibility of granting partial NATO membership to the Baltic countries, involving them only in political cooperation, but keeping them clear from military cooperation? Thank you.

[Solana] I am not sure whether I understood your question correctly. Did you ask about cooperation between Baltic countries? [waits for translation of the question to be repeated to him] Oh, I am sorry. Sorry. I have got it now.

The answer is very simple. Allow me to explain something. If you are a member of NATO, you are a member of the whole alliance, not some part of it. We would like to see new members, which will be asked to join the alliance, as full members which enjoy full rights, and not the partial members which you spoke about. There is no such thing as involvement

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only in political matters. If you are a member of an organization, you are a part of it, but you are a part of the whole organization. I hope that answers your question, if I understood it correctly.

[Moderator] Next question please.

[Siaurusevicius] Radio Free Europe, Audrius Siaurusevicius. My question is to the secretary general. Can you specify the date when negotiations with Lithuania on NATO membership will commence?

[Solana] I am not able to tell you a precise date — a day, a month, etc. This date has not been decided yet.

One decision was made in 1994, at a very important summit: It was decided to enlarge NATO. The process is made up of different stages. One of them was in 1995, when we specified the reasons for the enlargement of the alliance. Now we are in the next stage, which is dedicated to what I earlier described as individual dialogue. Every country which wants to join applies for individual dialogue. Not all countries which participate in the Partnership for Peace program are willing to do that. Many countries take part in the Partnership for Peace program, but only 11 of them have decided to take part in the individual dialogue.

That is all that I am able to tell you today. There is no specific date set, that is why I am not able to be more specific in answering your question. Thank you.

[Moderator] Next question please.

[Urneviciene] Radiocentras, Jolanta Urneviciene. The Baltic Assembly has discussed an issue of a defense alliance of the Baltic countries — Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Do you think this can be an alternative to NATO? And another question: Is NATO prepared for open confrontation with Russia's policy directed against NATO expansion?

[Solana] A few minutes ago, in this very room, I spoke with members of the Seimas of your country. Some of them asked a question which was not the same, but it was similar.

Speaking about the importance of cooperation between the Baltic countries, I think I am not in a position to answer this question. You are an independent country, and you have to make your own decisions in your life. I can only say that your country is now taking part in the individual dialogue [with NATO], it expressed willingness to become part of the alliance. The door is open. After completion of our study, we will be taking decisions in every individual case, when the time comes. However, it is a right of independent countries to take their own decisions.

[Moderator] Next question please.

[Lvova] Lyudmila Lvova, Russian Television, Channel One. As you know, Russia is opposed to NATO expansion eastwards. Mr. Solana, is it possible to consider NATO expansion at this point?

[Solana] I am very well aware of Russia's position in this respect. As you may know, I have recently visited your country, and I had a chance to meet President Yeltsin, Minister of Foreign Affairs Primakov, Grachev, Duma deputies, and members of the Federation Council, and I had a chance to listen to their opinion, and they had a chance to listen to my opinion. Our discussion was very open and sincere. I believe that we learned more about each other by the end of the visit. I hope that by the end of my visit we understood each other better.

NATO wishes to maintain good relations with the Russian Federation. We believe that Russia's role in the security and stability of Europe is very important. I had a chance to say that we would like to expand and to deepen bilateral relations between Russia and NATO. However, the decisions on opening NATO have already been taken. They were taken neither today nor yesterday. They were taken much earlier. I would like to emphasize that NATO has always been an open organization, from the very moment it was founded. I would like to remind you that Article 10 of the Washington Treaty says very clearly that NATO is an open organization. There were countries which joined NATO later than its original founding date. My country was not a NATO member when the alliance was founded. It joined NATO in 1986. That is why the idea of expansion is not new. This concept lies in the text of the Washington Treaty. I communicated all this to the leaders of the Russian Federation, whom I had a chance to meet. I would like to tell you all: This idea is not new, it was not born today. This idea existed from the very moment that NATO was founded. We will further continue the implementation of the decisions that we have taken. At the same time, I would like to stress once again that we are willing to maintain, and not only to maintain, but to deepen and to expand our relations with such an important country as Russia.

[Moderator] Last question to INTERFAX.

[Uscila] Kazys Uscila. I would like my question to be answered by both Mr. Solana and by the president of Lithuania. I would like you to assess the security of our country. Even through this window, we can see white lines in the clear sky. Mr. Solana probably knows that those are left by military aircraft, but not Lithuanian aircraft. So, what is your impression about our security? Can NATO contribute to our security in any way? Thank you.

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[Solana] The security of your country is currently being guaranteed by the fact that Lithuania is a participant in the Partnership for Peace program. We cooperate and we are acting together. As I said earlier, Lithuania is one of the countries which is acting within the framework of this program more widely than other countries. If I understood your question correctly, my answer would be that we are trying to contribute to the security of the continent and to the security of your country in the manner which I have just described. By developing the cooperation within the framework of the Partnership for Peace, we aim to build security and stability in Europe.

[Brazauskas] The security of some country, Lithuania in this case, should not be understood very primitively. One should not think that if we instantly become a NATO member, the security will be immediately guaranteed, and everything will be very good and guaranteed.

We, as a country, should start from creating all necessary conditions, and put in every effort to improve security. I have in mind relations with neighboring countries, regional relations, as well as Lithuania's internal situation, human rights and all other aspects which may damage [as heard] state security.

Certainly, NATO membership is a priority direction of our foreign policy. I said that at the very beginning of this news conference. I hope that that the very movement toward the membership in European and transatlantic structures, the European Union and NATO, and approaching these organizations, increases our state security and provides certain security guarantees for our country.

As far as white lines in the sky are concerned, you should know that those are left not by military jets. These are left by civil aircraft, there are hundreds of them passing over Lithuania every day, and our air traffic control authorities are perfectly aware of those flights and of those white lines which scared you so much. It is all perfectly normal: Those white lines can be seen everywhere in Europe. The important thing is that they are monitored. In addition, Lithuania receives substantial financial income for allowing aircraft of other countries to fly in its airspace.

[Moderator] Thank you. The news conference is over.

Lithuania: Envoys 'Skeptical' About U.S. Study on Integration

LD1604191296 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian diplomats gave a skeptical view on the study of prospects for integration of the Baltic states into the EU and NATO structures carried out by the U.S. Institute of [European] Politics.

According to Albinas Januska, deputy foreign minister, the above document does not comply with the concept of common European security because it proposes to solve security problems of some countries at the expense of others. If implemented, this would not only exclude the Baltic states from the rest of Central European countries, it would also introduce a split into their mutual unity, the Lithuanian diplomat said describing the document which sees the NATO flag being hoisted simultaneously in Tallinn and Warsaw while leaving the remaining countries waiting outside the door of this organization.

According to Albinas Januska, the study of the above influential private fund bases its scenario on erroneous presumptions that the Baltic states are undefendable in practical terms, that Lithuania and Latvia are in worse situation than Estonia, and that all the three Baltic states do not have political supporters with regard to their NATO membership.

Lithuania: Parliamentarians Appeal to U.S. Senators on Chechnya

LD1604191996 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An appeal to U.S. senators and members of the House of Representatives has been signed by 223 Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Polish, and Turkish MPs concerning the genocide of the Chechen nation and its right to self-determination.

Parliamentarians of five countries, including 70 Lithuanians, ask them to use their moral and political influence on President Clinton and international organizations in order to stop the war in Chechnya, to pull the Russian troops out, and to recognize the right of the Chechen nation to lead a free and independent life in accordance with the principles of international law, Algirdas Endriukaitis, member of the Lithuanian Seimas told journalists at a news conference today.

Lithuania: Czech President Visits Vilnius, Meets Leaders

LD1704120796 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Czech President Vaclav Havel was officially received this morning in the courtyard of the [Lithuanian] president's office and the Seimas [parliament]. The honored guest was met by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and cabinet members. After the ceremony, the presidents had a tete-a-tete conversation.

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At 1000 there was a meeting of their two delegations, with Algirdas Brazauskas and Vaclav Havel taking part. After that, agreements between Lithuania and the Czech Republic were signed: a memorandum on liberalizing mutual trade relations, and an agreement on cooperation between the two education ministries. The agreements were signed Kazimieras Klimasauskas and Vladimir Dlouhy, Lithuanian and Czech ministers of industry and trade; by Czech Ambassador in Lithuania Jaroslava Jeslinkova; and by Vladislovas Domarkas, Lithuanian minister of education and science. After the documents were signed, the Lithuanian and Czech presidents made brief statements:

[Begin recording] [Brazauskas] We have witnessed the signing of two documents which will serve as a good basis for our cooperation in trade, the economy, and education. Other agreements are being prepared, and I hope that in July our two countries will be able to present for signing a free trade agreement, which will considerably speed up our integration and cooperation with the Visehrad countries.

Today, we also discussed a number of very important questions concerning both internal and foreign policies. However, there is a news conference scheduled for tomorrow, and we hope that at this conference we will be able to give you more details.

Allow me to extend my welcome once again to Vaclav Havel upon his arrival in Lithuania.

[Havel, in Czech fading to Lithuanian translation] I would like to say that I am very pleased to have a chance to visit Vilnius. Lithuania is a country which is very close to us both historically and spiritually.

At the very beginning of our meeting, I told your president that the Czech people are very interested in the struggle of the Lithuanian nation for its freedom and national identity. This struggle was supported in many different ways.

During our meetings, we spoke about the internal situation in our countries, about our bilateral relations, and about wider political problems. We will be able to give you more details at a news conference tomorrow. [end recording]

[Announcer] After the agreements were signed, Vaclav Havel met with Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas. As I speak, President Havel is laying a wreath at the Antakalnis Cemetery as a mark of respect to those who died for Lithuania's independence.

In the afternoon, the Czech president will meet with Prime Minister Mindaugas Stankevicius. At 1600 there will be a ceremony at Vilnius University, at which Vaclav Havel will be awarded an honorary doctor's degree.

In the evening, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas will give a diner in Vaclav Havel's honor.

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